

PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE POWER BURST FACILITY
CORROSIVE WASTE SUMP AND EVAPORATION POND

PUBLIC MEETING
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO
April 8, 1992

PANEL MEMBERS

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Thomas Stoops, IDHW-DEQ
Howard Blood, Region 10 EPA
Randy Bargelt, EG&G

STAFF SUPPORT

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1 MR. SMITH: I would like to welcome
2 everyone out there to our discussion on the
3 proposed plan for the Interim Action at the
4 Power Burst Facility is dealing with the
5 Corrosive Waste Sump, related piping, the
6 discharge pipe and the Evaporation Pond.

7 My name is Reuel Smith and I'm the
8 INEL community relation plan coordinator. I
9 have been asked to moderate this meeting
10 tonight. And part of my duties as moderator
11 will be to work us through the agenda and make
12 sure that everyone who wishes to participate has
13 an opportunity. And by way of just general
14 information, if anyone has a concern or
15 especially a compliment about any of the
16 materials that you have been receiving in the
17 mail, the INEL Reporter, the proposed plans,
18 comments about the information repository,
19 sections of the public library or administrative
20 record documents, if you'll see myself
21 specifically about the INEL Reporter.

22 I would like to introduce Eric
23 Simpson at the back table, who is the editor of
24 the Reporter. If you have any comments that you
25 would like to make to him, feel free to visit

1 with any of us about any of these issues at the
2 break or at the end of the meeting.

3 We see a lot of familiar faces
4 tonight, and we're pleased that on a night like
5 tonight that you could take time out of your
6 schedule to come and participate in this meeting
7 with us.

8 We would like to bring your
9 attention to some of the previous projects that
10 you have attended public meetings on where we've
11 had public comment in the past. In this month's
12 issue, or I should say last month's, in the
13 March issue of the INEL Reporter, of which we
14 have copies in the back, there is a section on
15 page 7 which deals with an update to bring you
16 up to date on the status of the nine projects,
17 that have already been out for public review and
18 comment. So I wanted to bring that to your
19 attention.

20 As you signed in tonight, if you
21 indicated that you would like to receive the
22 INEL Reporter, you will be getting those issues.

23 Tonight will be the first meeting on
24 the Power Burst Facility. There will be another
25 meeting to discuss the proposed plan in Burley

1 tomorrow evening.

2 We've received comments related to
3 the number and frequency of meetings that we're
4 holding on proposed plans, and we want to just
5 let you know tonight that we have heard two
6 sides of an issue to have more meetings or to
7 have less meetings and focus on cleanup efforts,
8 so we're in the process of preparing four
9 interactive workshops in May where the public
10 would be invited to come and help give ideas and
11 suggestions on how to update the INEL Community
12 Relations Plan to help address some of these
13 issues and others that have been raised.

14 Now, for a little background on
15 tonight's meeting, this project has been
16 identified as an Interim Action in the Federal
17 Facility Agreement and Consent Order. Now, for
18 those of you who may be new tonight, the purpose
19 of an Interim Action is to reduce, control or
20 eliminate problems that are associated with
21 contamination at these sites. And much more
22 information will be given to you in the
23 presentation that will be starting here
24 momentarily.

25 This agreement was signed by the

1 Department of Energy, Environmental Protection
2 Agency, and the State of Idaho in the month of
3 December. Since that time a number of cleanup
4 projects have been initiated. We also have
5 copies of this plan at the back table if you'd
6 like to pick one of those up.

7 Now, the comment period for this
8 project began on March 25th, and it is scheduled
9 to end on April 24th, and due to a mailing
10 glitch with our computer disk and our mailing
11 label, only three-fourths of the proposed plans
12 were sent out to the public on March 19th.
13 About nine days later the additional one-fourth
14 of our mailing list went out. So we did have a
15 problem, and most of the zip codes were in the
16 Boise and Moscow areas.

17 So I apologize for that problem that
18 was created. Because of that, we've received a
19 letter asking for a 30 day extension to the
20 comment period. And the agencies have discussed
21 this and have agreed that the comment period
22 would be extended. Formal notice of the
23 extension will be forthcoming in the local
24 papers.

25 So back to tonight's meeting. Once

1 the agencies have put together a proposed plan
2 on a project, it's time to take it out and
3 involve the public in evaluating the
4 alternatives that are discussed in the proposed
5 plan. So the input that is received tonight at
6 this meeting and also the written comments that
7 are sent in regarding the subject will be
8 evaluated by these agencies before they decide
9 on a remedy.

10 Now, I would like to introduce some
11 of the folks up here at the front table. On my
12 far right is Tom Stoops, who is the Waste Area
13 Group coordinator for the State of Idaho on this
14 specific project, and Tom works in the Idaho
15 Falls offices here on 17th Street.

16 Next to Tom is Donna Nicklaus, who
17 is the Department of Energy Waste Area Group
18 manager. And next to Donna is Randy Bargelt,
19 who is the EG&G project manager for the Power
20 Burst Facility Project.

21 Now, next to Randy we have set up
22 tonight under a special arrangement, we're
23 connected to Seattle to speak with Region 10 of
24 the Environmental Protection Agency. And the
25 individual there, Howard Blood, is the project

1 coordinator for the Environmental Protection
2 Agency, and there may be others at EPA that have
3 agency folks that will be coming in and out, but
4 Howard will be our primary contact for the
5 Environmental Protection Agency tonight. Let me
6 do a test and ask Howard if he can hear us and
7 if you're there, Howard.

8 MR. BLOOD: Yes, I can hear you
9 fine, thanks. Glad to be here.

10 MR. SMITH: That's great. Let me
11 make a comment. If during the meeting tonight,
12 anyone has trouble hearing from the speaker
13 phone and so forth, just raise your hand and of
14 we'll give a key over here to the individual
15 over at the control panel and he can make some
16 adjustments. But we're hopeful that this will
17 work out using the speaker phone.

18 Another individual I would like to
19 introduce tonight is Mike Coe. Mike, would you
20 stand, please. Mike is with the INEL Public
21 Affairs Office. As you know, the topic of
22 tonight's discussion is on the Power Burst
23 Facility, but you may have other issues and
24 concerns about the INEL or the Department of
25 Energy. If you see Mike at the break or

1 following the meeting, he will be happy to help
2 you with the answers to those questions.

3 I would like to point out and say
4 thanks to Lane Allgood who is sitting over here
5 at the control panel. Lane is the director of
6 the Pocatello and Twin Falls INEL offices. In
7 addition to his other duties, he consents, it's
8 kind of like this, we have to twist his arm a
9 little, but he consents to help us out and has
10 been a great support over many months in doing
11 the sound system for us.

12 From this point on I would like to
13 turn the time over to the agencies to give some
14 opening comments. Donna, I will turn the time
15 over to you.

16 MS. NICKLAUS: Thank you, Reuel. As
17 Reuel said, my name is Donna Nicklaus. I'm the
18 DOE Idaho Waste Area Group 5 Manager. Waste
19 Area Group 5, just to give you a little
20 background, under the Federal Facilities
21 Agreement is one of ten Waste Area Groups at the
22 INEL. The Interim Action that we will be
23 talking to you about tonight is one of 13
24 operable units, which are just smaller
25 manageable units within these Waste Area Groups.

1 And Randy Bargelt will be giving you a
2 presentation on the proposed action in this
3 area.

4 An Interim Action is undertaken, as
5 Reuel said, to remove immediate unacceptable
6 risks and also to expedite the overall site
7 cleanup in the area. By taking an Interim
8 Action you can move and get an operable unit
9 cleaned up more quickly than following clear
10 through the additional CERCLA process.

11 With that, if you have any questions
12 that you would like to direct to me, I would be
13 glad to discuss those with you. I'm glad
14 everybody turned out tonight, and we look
15 forward to getting your comments on the
16 alternatives and options that we proposed in the
17 proposed plan.

18 Tom, would you like to make some
19 comments for the State?

20 MR. STOOPS: I'm Tom Stoops. I'm
21 WAG manager for the State of Idaho Division of
22 Environmental Quality. I would like to thank
23 everybody first for being here this evening.
24 It's important for us to get your comments. All
25 the three agencies have come to a consensus and

1 worked diligently on coming out with this
2 proposed plan.

3 I want to stress that it is a
4 proposed plan and final remedial selections are
5 not made until we receive both verbal and
6 written comments and have had a chance to review
7 them. Without going over too much of the same
8 ground, Randy.

9 MR. SMITH: We want to ask Howard
10 Blood if he has any additional comments he would
11 like to make at this time from EPA.

12 MR. BLOOD: No, I think you've done
13 an excellent job in laying out the ground rules
14 where we're headed with this process. I would
15 like to just reiterate that the public comments
16 are a vital part of the process and we're here
17 to hear what anybody that has any response to
18 this proposed plan has to say about the plan or
19 any of the variations on it. Thanks.

20 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Howard and
21 panel. Before we go on, I would like to just
22 have you take a look at the agenda that you
23 received at the door tonight and just walk
24 through that. The next thing that will occur is
25 that we'll have Randy Bargelt give a brief

1 presentation of the proposed plan. And
2 following that presentation, we will have a
3 period of clarification. If there are some
4 points that need to be clarified in the
5 presentation, we'll do that, then open up to a
6 general question and answer period.

7 During that period you'll notice
8 that there are cards placed on your seats as you
9 came in the room tonight. If during the
10 presentations a question comes to mind, if you
11 would jot down the idea or the question that you
12 have, we'll collect those cards afterwards, and
13 we'll be able to respond to your question a
14 little better. We found that by having it
15 written on a card, we don't lose the details of
16 your question.

17 If I had to restate the question, I
18 might misspeak, and we don't want to do that, so
19 I would like to bring that to your attention.
20 We also have microphones available after the
21 presentation that you're welcome to use.

22 After the question and answer period
23 on this proposed plan, there will be an
24 opportunity for those who have prepared
25 statements to make the comments for the record.

1 This comment period provides an opportunity for
2 the panel to hear your thoughts on the proposed
3 plan and remediate the alternatives and the
4 options that were presented in the proposed
5 plan.

6 One of the purposes of the meeting
7 tonight is to ask you and invite you to express
8 your opinion on this proposed plan. As you
9 noted, not only are there two alternatives, but
10 there are options under one of the alternatives,
11 which we would like to receive comment on.

12 If you choose not to comment
13 tonight, I would like to remind you about
14 written comments that we ask that you fill out.
15 At the back of the room you'll find a form on
16 colored paper entitled Power Burst Facility
17 Interim Action, and on this form there is an
18 address where you can send your comments to, but
19 we would welcome those at tonight's meeting.
20 There is a black tray on the back table. If you
21 deposit those we'll collect those tonight or
22 you're welcome to mail those in at your
23 convenience after you've had time to ponder what
24 you heard here tonight.

25 Now, what happens to your comments

1 after you have made them? After the comment
2 period tonight and after this comment period
3 ends on May 24th, the Department of Energy will
4 summarize the comments that are made during the
5 comment portion of this meeting tonight and the
6 one in Burley, and we'll put those together with
7 the written comments that have been received.

8 The issues that are identified will
9 be responded to in a document called a
10 Responsiveness Summary. Those of you who have
11 signed in tonight, and given us your name and
12 address and those who submit written comments
13 later on or make comments tonight, will receive
14 a copy of this Responsiveness Summary. Along
15 with a copy of tonight's transcript will be
16 placed in the Administrative Record portion of
17 the INEL information repositories which are
18 located in public libraries and we have the
19 address in one of the INEL Reporters here in the
20 back of the room.

21 As you've noticed, we do have a
22 court reporter here tonight with us. And this
23 transcript will be placed in the Administrative
24 Record along with the Record of Decision and the
25 Responsiveness Summary for this project.

1 In my haste to get under way, I
2 failed to recognize several other individuals in
3 the audience and I might just recognize Dixie
4 Richardson who is here tonight with Senator
5 Steve Symms office and Mel Richardson who is one
6 of our other legislators. We're pleased that
7 you can be here tonight.

8 With that, I would like to just turn
9 the time over to Randy, and again just ask that,
10 if possible, you hold your questions of
11 clarification until after the presentation when
12 we have had a chance to see the flow of ideas
13 that will come through the slides. But if you
14 feel like it's important to clarify a point, go
15 ahead and we'll take that question during the
16 presentation. Otherwise, again, please make
17 comments on your note cards and we'll collect
18 those at the end of the presentation. So,
19 Randy, go ahead and turn the time over to you.

20 MR. BARGELT: My name is Randy
21 Bargelt. I'm the Waste Area Group manager for
22 WAG 5 for EG&G. I'm here to present the
23 agencies' proposed plan for the Power Burst
24 Facility, Evaporation Pond and Corrosive Waste
25 Sump. These two sites comprise the operable

1 Unit 5-13.

2 As most of you know, the Power Burst
3 Facility is located on the INEL, which is
4 approximately 45 miles west of Idaho Falls, and
5 the Power Burst Facility is located
6 approximately four miles north of Highway 20.

7 The Power Burst Facility reactor was
8 operated from 1972 to 1985. And it was
9 commissioned to perform testing on pressurized
10 water reactor fuel rods. This is a photograph
11 of the PBF Reactor Facility, and right here we
12 have the cooling tower and the reactor building
13 and the operable unit, which is comprised of the
14 Corrosive Waste Sump and the lined Evaporation
15 Pond and discharge pipe which connects the waste
16 sump and the pond.

17 The secondary coolant water from the
18 cooling tower was treated and put into this pond
19 for evaporation. This is a diagram which
20 simplifies the actual plumbing of the treatment
21 facility for the secondary cooling water. The
22 cooling water here, the secondary, was treated
23 with hexavalent chromium as an algal and rust
24 inhibitor. And two to four times a year this
25 system was drained down and put out into the

1 Evaporation Pond for evaporation.

2 The hexavalent chromium was treated
3 within the reactor building with sulfur dioxide
4 to reduce it to the less toxic trivalent
5 chromium. That was then discharged into the
6 Corrosive Waste Sump where that solution was
7 neutralized to a pH of about 6.5 to 7.0. The
8 water was then discharged to the Evaporation
9 Pond for evaporation via the discharge pipe.

10 This is the Corrosive Waste Sump.
11 It is a concrete structure about 11 by 11 feet
12 square and 14 feet in height. There is only
13 about three feet sticking above the ground here
14 in this picture.

15 The solution from the cooling tower,
16 which came in from this side was neutralized
17 inside the sump and then pumped out to the
18 Evaporation Pond, which this is one side of the
19 berm for the Evaporation Pond.

20 We also noticed the Evaporation Pond
21 was surrounded by a six foot cyclone fence.
22 Also within our investigations there is
23 approximately 1300 gallons of water within the
24 Sump that we will remove, we propose to remove
25 and treat and dispose of properly.

1 This is a photo of the Evaporation
2 Pond. Again, you'll see the cooling towers, the
3 reactor building, back off there in the corner
4 just over the berm is the Corrosive Waste Sump.
5 You'll see the discharge pipe right there where
6 the water was fed from the Corrosive Waste Sump
7 into the pond.

8 The pond measures about 140 feet by
9 140 feet inside diameter. It's filled with
10 about six inches of sediment on an average
11 across the bottom of the pond. Those sediments
12 were put in there intentionally to keep the
13 liner of the pond from getting blown around and
14 also to protect the bottom of the liner from the
15 ultraviolet rays of sun.

16 The liner itself is composed
17 30 mils in thickness and it's made out of
18 Hypalon, which is similar to the materials that
19 rubber rafts are made out of.

20 The contaminants that we're dealing
21 with within this are cesium-137 and the chromium
22 that we mentioned before.

23 We might also point out there is a
24 couple of pieces of sagebrush or wind blown
25 tumbleweeds that have been blown into the pond.

1 They are not actually going through the liner.

2 Contaminants of concern are, again
3 as I mentioned, chromium and cesium, and during
4 our sampling activities we noticed that there
5 was an association between high concentrations
6 of chromium and high concentrations of cesium
7 and they occurred together within the pond.

8 We put together this graphic to show
9 that generally you'll see that the higher
10 concentrations of cesium and chromium do occur
11 together. I say "generally," it doesn't always
12 happen, but we've proposed to use field
13 screening in one of the alternatives for Hot
14 Spot Removal where we would use portable
15 radiation detectors to detect cesium and guide
16 our removal action in which we would also pick
17 up the higher concentrations of chromium.

18 The exposure pathways that we have
19 identified are inhalation of chromium by the
20 workers through dust and air and things like
21 that and also direct exposure and ionization,
22 ionizing radiation from cesium-137.

23 Again, this is an Interim Action and
24 something that we feel that we should do because
25 of the exposure to the workers on the site.

1 I think we said this a couple times
2 this evening that the purpose of the Interim
3 Action is to remove, eliminate or reduce
4 exposure to an immediate risk and also to
5 perform an early action to expedite our overall
6 site cleanup on the INEL.

7 We have two alternatives that we are
8 proposing. Alternative 1 is No Action, and
9 Alternative 2 is Hot Spot Removal, which is our
10 preferred alternative. Hot Spot is a relative
11 term because all the wastes that we are dealing
12 with are low level in nature and Hot Spot is a
13 relative term to the sediments in the pond so
14 we're in the highest concentration in the pond
15 to reduce the risk and move the minimum amount
16 of sediments and have to treat and dispose of .
17 the minimum amount of waste.

18 Under the Hot Spot Removal
19 alternative, we have two treatment disposal
20 options. One is to treat and dispose of the
21 sediments at the Test Reactor and Warm Waste
22 Pond, and the other is for treatment and
23 disposal at the Radioactive Waste Management
24 Complex.

25 Alternative No. 1, No Action, the

1 contaminants remain in place. We don't get a
2 risk reduction or exposure reduction by not
3 doing anything. We didn't consider this
4 alternative much father than this, because it
5 didn't meet any of the threshold criteria.

6 Alternative No. 2, Hot Spot Removal,
7 that's to remove the concentrated contaminants
8 through field screening techniques. What we
9 would use is a portable radiation detector to
10 survey the entire surface of the pond and guide
11 our removal action by marking areas that we
12 would notice the highest concentrations of
13 cesium, in which the chromium is associated if
14 you remember the graph I showed you earlier.

15 What this will do is allow us to
16 minimize the amount of waste using the field
17 screening that we would have to remove. We
18 figure we may have to remove 100 cubic yards
19 maximum out of the pond out of the total of 360
20 cubic yards of sediment that exist in there
21 right now. This will reduce the risk and
22 exposure to the workers on the site.

23 And when we're finished with the
24 removal action, we will sample the remaining
25 sediments in the pond to verify that we have met

1 the goals of the Interim Action.

2 This is a picture or diagram of the
3 Evaporation Pond, and it shows a summation of
4 some of the sampling activities that we've done
5 today. The colors are a little interesting, but
6 these dots right here are sample locations. And
7 the entire bottom here is the outline of
8 sediments that you saw in the photograph. This
9 entire area here is covered with approximately
10 six inches of sediment.

11 So these are where we've been taking
12 samples. The shaded areas in burgundy, I guess
13 you'd call it, are areas that we know now that
14 we will probably remove based on our sampling.

15 The grid that you see is our sample
16 location grid, and the area here, just to give
17 you an idea of the scale, is approximately 7.2
18 cubic yards of sediment contained in each one of
19 these squares. Also the liner is depicted by
20 this, so all the sediment is laying on top of
21 the liner.

22 Under this the alternative Option A
23 for treatment and disposal is to remove the
24 sediments up to 100 cubic yards, transport them
25 to the Test Reactor Area and treat them at the

1 facility proposed for the Warm waste Pond
2 Sediment Interim Action. And a couple of
3 reasons that we came up with this was the waste
4 forms are alike. The Test Reactor Warm Waste
5 Pond has sediments that are contaminated with
6 cesium and chromium amongst other things, which
7 are the same contaminants and the same medium
8 that we have. So to utilize the technology that
9 would be existing would be a good efficient use
10 of resources.

11 When we were finished treating our
12 sediments at the facility we would dispose of
13 the treated sediments in the Warm Waste Pond and
14 cap it under the Interim Action.

15 One other point to bring up is that
16 the volume of sediments that they are actually
17 treating at TRA are approximately 21,000 cubic
18 yards. We're proposing a maximum to send to
19 that facility if that alternative is chosen, to
20 send approximately 100 yards maximum, which is
21 about a half of a percent and wouldn't
22 appreciatively add to the volume of what will go
23 into the Warm Waste Pond.

24 To summarize that option we would
25 remove the hot spots up to a maximum of 100

1 cubic yards from the Evaporation Pond at PBF,
2 transport it to the Test Reactor Area, treat the
3 sediments at the treatment facility proposed for
4 that Interim Action and dispose of the treated
5 sediments within the Warm Waste Pond and at that
6 point it would be capped.

7 Treatment disposal Option B would be
8 at the Radioactive Waste Complex. What we
9 propose there is to take the sediments that we
10 removed from the pond at the Power Burst
11 Facility, mix those sediments with cement, take
12 that slurry and inject that into existing low
13 level waste, certified boxes at RWMC, which we
14 would make efficient use of the space at RWMC.
15 And this slide will show how we would utilize
16 the empty spaces the boxes would go in now.

17 This right here is a storage tank
18 that has been cut up and is going to be disposed
19 of at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex
20 and it has been put into the box here, which is
21 a disposal box. Then there is also some
22 associated piping that has been put in there
23 also.

24 If you notice these dark areas,
25 those are all void spaces. The box isn't being

1 used as 100 percent efficient as you could. By
2 inserting grout into these void spaces, it would
3 end up using most of the empty space within each
4 box, which makes an efficient use of it, and
5 also when the grout hardens you increase the
6 strength of the boxes when they are stacked and
7 placed in the Radioactive Waste Management
8 Complex.

9 You'll notice here, this is not a
10 slide of grout being injected into the box you
11 saw on the previous slide. This is another box.
12 But you'll still see a regular piece of metal
13 and things and you can tell that this is really
14 using up the space in that box. So actually
15 what we would be doing with our sediments in
16 grouting is almost getting a beneficial use out
17 of them in strengthening the boxes and making
18 efficient use of that space, and then we would
19 dispose of those at the Radioactive Waste
20 Management Complex.

21 That pretty much concludes the
22 presentation for the proposed plan. And we have
23 a couple of things to let you know where we're
24 going in the future with this project. And
25 you'll notice, as Reuel said, this date has now

1 been extended to May 24th when we end the public
2 comment period. During the summer we will
3 address the public comment in the Responsiveness
4 Summary. In the fall we will issue a Record of
5 Decision. In the winter we will prepare a
6 remedial design. In the spring of 1992 we will
7 perform the removal action.

8 And we appreciate your coming, and
9 thank you very much.

10 MR. SMITH: Before we let Randy off
11 the hook, are there any points of clarification
12 that anyone would like to make about a
13 particular slide that you saw or did anything
14 come up in the presentation that you'd like to
15 get an answer to before we go into a general
16 question/answer session?

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Randy, could we go
18 back to the slide where the survey was made of
19 the pond itself? Was a radiation survey made of
20 the pond?

21 MR. BARGELT: Yes, there was.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That should have
23 given you 100 percent sampling if there is a
24 correlation.

25 MR. BARGELT: These samples, each

1 one of these here were a composite sample in
2 which there were five samples taken from each
3 one of these grids. So we didn't do a radiation
4 survey across the entire pond.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: With this
6 correlation you have with the chromium, that
7 would have given you the total picture?

8 MR. BARGELT: That's correct. We
9 took a look at the data after we had done the
10 sampling, then later on in the process of
11 putting together the proposed plan and saying,
12 "We looked at the data, made the correlation and
13 came up with where we are today." And they have
14 not gone back in and done the sampling, which we
15 would do now if we do the Hot Spot Removal. So
16 it would be more efficient to do it at the time
17 that we actually do the removal instead of go
18 back in and resample after we made this
19 observation.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: John Byron. Did
21 you take an average radiation level or what
22 radiation levels are we talking about at the
23 pond edge or anyplace on the pond? You mention
24 samples and average of samples, which doesn't
25 mean a thing to me.

1 MR. BARGELT: The average across the
2 entire pond based on the sampling you see here
3 in the red dots is about 20 picocuries per gram,
4 and the highest we came across was about 345
5 picocuries per gram.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That is
7 concentration, that's not radiation levels.

8 MR. SMITH: Do you have another
9 question, Mr. Byron?

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm interested in
11 radiation levels, not concentration of activity
12 in the ground material. What is the radiation
13 level, millirem per hour, what?

14 MR. BARGELT: We haven't calculated
15 that as of yet. We'd have to find out.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You haven't had an
17 HP run around the pond to find out what you're
18 going to be running into. To sample that you
19 should have an HP check to start with. What are
20 your radiation levels that we're dealing with?

21 MR. BARGELT: I can't give you those
22 numbers off the top of my head. I'll have to
23 get back to you on that.

24 Can you help me out on that one,
25 Donna?

1 MS. NICKLAUS: I don't know the
2 numbers off the top of my head. If we have the
3 numbers, we will get back to you with those.
4 Okay?

5 MR. SMITH: Any other points of
6 clarification? If not, then, let's go ahead and
7 those of you that have written questions on the
8 cards, if you would like to hold those up or
9 pass them to the end of the aisle, Eric and Lee
10 Toutt will collect those and bring them to the
11 front so the panel can have access to those.

12 Again, while those cards are being
13 collected, we would like to invite those of you
14 who would like to step up to the microphone,
15 please do so and ask your questions of the
16 panel. We have the microphones for a couple of
17 purposes, but to help the court reporter capture
18 all of the comments and all the details of the
19 comments.

20 We'll take the comments from the
21 note cards first, and essentially what we'll do,
22 we'll hand the cards over to Donna Nicklaus from
23 the Department of Energy. For those questions
24 that apply to the Environmental Protection
25 Agency, Donna will read those into the speaker

1 phone so Howard will have the information and
2 he'll know what the question is.

3 So if you have any specific question
4 for EPA or the State of Idaho or the Department
5 of Energy, feel free to write it down or come to
6 the microphone.

7 So with that, Donna, would you like
8 to read one of the cards?

9 MS. NICKLAUS: The first question
10 is, "Why are we so concerned with 270 square
11 meters out of 2,315 square kilometers?
12 Something this small should have been turned
13 over to a couple of chemists to" -- I'm not sure
14 what this word is, I will substitute
15 remediate or cleanup for it, if that's
16 incorrect, please let me know, "and dispose of?"

17 The reason we are removing this area
18 is because it poses a risk to site workers due
19 to the presence of the chromium in the pond and
20 also of potential or any future use of the area.
21 In terms of why this wasn't turned over to a
22 chemist, this operable unit was spelled out in
23 the Federal Facilities Agreement by the agencies
24 and was thought to be best handled through the
25 Interim Action process.

1 MR. SMITH: Let me mention also, if
2 those who submit written cards, if you would
3 like to follow up with a question or one of
4 these questions raises another question from the
5 person that's submitted it, please feel to
6 follow up.

7 Also the panel, if there is a word
8 that is unclear or if they are not sure what is
9 being asked, they may interrupt the question and
10 if that's unclear, please submit another card or
11 come to the microphone and tell them they missed
12 the point, if that's the case.

13 MR. STOOPS: I have a question here
14 that states, "May I have an example of a comment
15 made by the state on the proposed plan?"

16 When we went through creation of the
17 proposed plan, it went through six different
18 revisions. As you might be aware, that's quite
19 a number of comments. The specific comments
20 that were made dealt with risk. How were the
21 analyses performed? What are we doing to
22 substantiate this? It's an informal, but it's a
23 very -- there is a high density of questions
24 that are asked over a period of about six or
25 eight weeks. We went through six revisions.

1 And without a little more specificity on what
2 kind of questions that you're wondering that we
3 asked, I'm not sure what you're saying. Quite a
4 number of questions are asked. We do a lot of
5 review of the background documentation.

6 MR. BARGELT: I have a question
7 here, it says, "How much will a Hot Spot Removal
8 decrease the risk from inhalation and direct
9 radiation exposure?"

10 Now, in removing the hot spots we
11 decrease the average concentration of the
12 contaminants within the pond sediments. With
13 the field screening, we will remove the upper
14 level of the concentrations reducing the average
15 of the ponds, which is what you calculate the
16 risk on, then remove those sediments to treat,
17 and dispose of those and the remaining sediments
18 will be a less average concentration, which will
19 be of less risk.

20 MS. NICKLAUS: Howard, would you
21 like to add onto that and maybe address the
22 national contingency levels that we would be
23 meeting?

24 MR. BLOOD: The only thing that I
25 would add on that is getting back again to the

1 overall intent of an Interim Action and how
2 things are put together, we don't generally do a
3 formalized risk assessment, therefore the
4 reduction of risk is more qualitative than
5 quantitative.

6 However, I guess where Donna may
7 have been headed with that leading question was
8 the fact that in the National Contingency Plan
9 generally we use a 10 to minus 6 or one in a
10 million excess cancer risk as the departure for
11 developing cleanup standards for final action.
12 Certainly we would like to have interim actions
13 be consistent with final actions as we have
14 mentioned previously.

15 MR. SMITH: Okay. Let's take the
16 next question.

17 MR. STOOPS: I have a series of
18 questions on one card. I'll take them one at a
19 time. "Why Interim Action on such a low level
20 concentration project?"

21 As Randy presented and discussed,
22 the remediation site is based upon risk. Risk
23 for the Interim Action is predicated on an EPA
24 default value, which are standards published in
25 EPA guidance documents. When you're performing

1 the qualitative risk assessment you add to that
2 generalized knowledge of what the toxins may be.
3 And that's where we come up to the decision
4 driver that a cleanup has to occur by using a
5 default value of concentrations that are
6 available to expose people to.

7 The next question is, "Why not do
8 the total cleanup in one activity and be done
9 with it?"

10 Part of when we were putting this
11 proposed plan together is the realization that
12 the pond may be used. So first and foremost we
13 were looking at cleaning up the hot spots to
14 present safe working conditions and to leave the
15 pond in a usable state, if that's required in
16 the future.

17 And the last part of this was,
18 "Continuing to a two or three phase project only
19 compounds the cost." As Howard Blood mentioned,
20 this cleanup would be promulgated on the idea
21 that it will support the final cleanup and
22 that's what we will be working toward.

23 MR. BARGELT: I have the question
24 again, "What are the radiation levels we are
25 talking about maximum and at the pond edge?"

1 And I will make sure I get your name and address
2 and we will get back to you and give you those
3 numbers.

4 MS. NICKLAUS: I'll address one of a
5 series of questions on this card, then turn the
6 others over to the appropriate people. The
7 question is, "Did DOE know the pond, pump and
8 pipe would someday pose a health risk when they
9 constructed them?"

10 I cannot answer for the actual
11 construction of them; however, when this
12 facility was built, the pond was lined at the
13 time and the sump is an enclosed facility, and
14 again the pipe is solid, and therefore, it was
15 constructed to not present a risk.

16 MR. BARGELT: Could I add to that?
17 The sump also, there are no pathways of exposure
18 out of the sump and so the only pathways of
19 exposure is really from inhalation of dust from
20 the pond sediments when it's blown around.
21 Right now we are maintaining water on top of
22 that pond so dust does not blow around. So
23 there are no pathways, exposure pathways that
24 come out of that sump.

25 MR. SMITH: While they are reviewing

1 that next question, I would like to remind you
2 that if something you hear or think of raises a
3 new question, feel free to put it on a card and
4 raise your hand and Eric or Lee Toutt will pick
5 those up and bring those forward, so they can be
6 coming up as they are addressing one question.
7 So don't hesitate to turn in additional cards.

8 MR. BARGELT: One of the questions
9 on this card is, "How many people work at PBF?"
10 The reactor facility, I'm sure is what it means.
11 I think there is about 12 out there full time
12 during the day. If anybody can help me out on
13 that one. I think there are about 12 people out
14 there on a daily basis.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: About six.

16 MR. BARGELT: Thank you. Another .
17 one here it says, "Explain how the risks were
18 calculated?" We brought our risk expert in,
19 Nick Stanisich from MSE, and I'll defer that
20 question to him.

21 MR. SMITH: Would you like to
22 explain what MSE stands for?

23 MR. BARGELT: Mountain States
24 Engineering, who are consultants who do work on
25 the risk on this project.

1 MR. STANISICH: The risks were
2 calculated using standard equations from EPA
3 guidance documents, and again they were used
4 with default exposure perimeters, and you use
5 default exposure perimeters in many instances.
6 One instance is Interim Action, but again also
7 since our pathway of concern is inhalation of
8 chromium, we have very little information about
9 the airborne concentrations of chromium.

10 Without information, therefore, we
11 have to revert to the default exposure
12 parameters. Agreeably they are conservative and
13 they are nationwide type of exposure parameters.
14 They may not represent the actual site
15 conditions, but they are the most usable and in
16 agreement with EPA guidelines for interim
17 actions at Superfund sites.

18 Also taken into consideration was
19 direct radiation from cesium -- and I can answer
20 John's question, I think. The radiation levels
21 at the berm are less than 5 millirems per hour,
22 John. From contact I think they are about three
23 to five millirems per hour, somewhere in there.
24 Even though there is a little contamination out
25 there, there isn't a lot of activity directly on

1 the pond.

2 Although, using default exposure
3 parameters one has to assume a certain amount of
4 activity on the pond whether it's there or not;
5 therefore, you get exposure to direct radiation.

6 But our primary concern is
7 inhalation of chromium through the airborne
8 exposure route.

9 MR. SMITH: Any follow-up comment by
10 the agencies on that point? Okay. Let's take
11 the next question, then.

12 MR. STOOPS: We have another
13 question, "If the water is left in the pond, why
14 would this Interim Action need to be continued?"

15 Following the guidance and the
16 documents that are available to us, the
17 administrative control keeping the pond flooded
18 to reduce the likelihood of dusting cannot be
19 considered in the evaluation of the risk, and
20 that's because it is the Interim Action.

21 Howard, would you like to add on to
22 that?

23 MR. SMITH: You might have to
24 restate the question. I'm not sure Howard heard
25 the original question.

1 MR. STOOPS: Howard, the question
2 was, "If the water is left in the pond, why
3 would this Interim Action need to be continued?"

4 MR. BLOOD: I think that Tom's
5 response was correct in that we can't assume
6 that that water will always remain there, and
7 that's, I guess, inconsistent with any type of
8 future use scenario where we have to assume that
9 all administrative controls will be off,
10 including the fence around the pond, so we have
11 an opportunity or possibility of future direct
12 radiation exposure as well as from the dusting
13 that Tom mentioned.

14 MS. NICKLAUS: The question is,
15 "What is the risk of the pond becoming
16 contaminated in the future?"

17 By removing the contaminants that
18 remain in the sump and the piping that go into
19 the pond, that will minimize any potential for
20 the future contamination from residual
21 contaminants in the system. In terms of future
22 use of the pond, that has not been determined at
23 this point. However, it would need to be
24 addressed before any future use would be
25 proposed and contamination would be minimized.

1 Randy, do you have anything that you
2 would like to add to that?

3 MR. BARGELT: No, I think you did a
4 real good job.

5 MR. BLOOD: It's also true that I
6 believe hexavalent chromium is no longer used in
7 cooling the water, so even if the pond was used
8 in the future, at very least we shouldn't have a
9 reoccurrence of the chromium contamination
10 problem.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: John Horan. I
12 would like to comment on this one item. Twice
13 now in the documents that we have in our hand
14 that we're discussing tonight is the statement,
15 "Future use of the reactor is not anticipated."

16 I don't think we should speculate on
17 there being future uses. I think DOE is trying
18 to close the door on PBF being used, period.

19 MS. NICKLAUS: The reactor has
20 been -- I believe it states in the Proposed Plan
21 that the reactor is in standby. Since that time
22 that the Proposed Plan was issued, the reactor
23 has been placed in shutdown mode; however, the
24 final determination on use of the facility area
25 at the PBF and any necessary use of the pond for

1 future use at PBF area or during decontamination
2 and decommission activities that may take place
3 there has not been determined at this time.

4 MR. BARGELT: I have another
5 question. It says, "Does the Power Burst
6 Facility contamination pose any threat to
7 groundwater? Please explain."

8 It is a lined pond, and we have had
9 no evidence that the pond has leaked to date.
10 We feel that the pond holds water very well, it
11 does at this point in time, and we don't believe
12 we have any appreciable leaks in the liner, so
13 we don't see there is a threat to the
14 groundwater.

15 The groundwater is also about 470
16 feet below the ground surface.

17 MR. STOOPS: I would like to add to
18 that. Part of how the FFA is written is that
19 after the Interim Action we will eventually be
20 performing remedial investigation over the WAG
21 wide area, and at that time we would be
22 investigating to test the liner to see if a
23 pathway exposure did exist even though present
24 indications shows that the liner does hold
25 water.

1 MR. BARGELT: Another question. It
2 says, "After the radioactivity leaves the
3 reburied contaminants, will they no longer pose
4 a threat to groundwater or to workers' or
5 health?"

6 The radioactivity is not the only
7 driver in this Interim Action. We have chromium
8 as a driver, and inhalation pathways is the main
9 driver that we're dealing with here. So there
10 is a threat from chromium, which does not
11 degrade over time, whereas the the half-life
12 will eventually degrade.

13 So in answer to the question, we
14 will still have -- even if the radioactivity
15 goes away and we don't do anything about the
16 chromium, we still have a risk.

17 MS. NICKLAUS: If I could add a
18 little bit to that answer. After the
19 contaminants are disposed of, if one of the two
20 options presented in the proposed plan is
21 utilized under the Option A at the Test Reactor
22 Area, the disposal of the sediments in the pond
23 area after treatment, hopefully the treatment
24 would be used to reduce the risk in the
25 sediments to an acceptable level, and the

1 sediments with residual contamination would be
2 disposed of in the warm waste pond, which would
3 have a cap, an engineered structure put over the
4 top.

5 If Option B treatment disposal at
6 the RWMC were selected, the contamination would
7 be mixed with cement and would be grouted, and
8 that would reduce any chance of the contaminants
9 leaking.

10 MR. SMITH: Are there any other
11 written questions? Any more note cards that you
12 would like to hand in? Is there anyone else who
13 would like to come to one of the microphones and
14 ask some questions or follow up one of the
15 responses that they've heard this evening?

16 Yes, would you like to come to the
17 microphone, please.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: has the area
19 outside of the fence been surveyed to see if any
20 of the contaminants have left the area?

21 MR. BARGELT: Wind blown
22 contaminants, for example?

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Wind blown
24 contaminants.

25 MR. BARGELT: No, we don't have any

1 wind data as of yet.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So if we don't
3 know if it has left the site, it doesn't do any
4 good to determine if we can clean it up? If it
5 hasn't left the site, do we really need to clean
6 it up?

7 MR. BARGELT: Based on the default
8 parameters and the risk assessment, we do have
9 -- based on the concentrations of the chromium
10 in the pond, it is assumed that there has been
11 some wind blown sediment moved around the site
12 there.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My next question
14 is a little more broad. All right. If the DOE
15 and NRC and EPA cannot determine the de minimus
16 values for radioactivity to clean this up to,
17 then why do this at all? In other words, I
18 don't know if you know what I'm talking about?

19 MR. BARGELT: Yes.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Why if you're
21 going to set a level, either it's above or below
22 this level, okay. If it's above it, clean it
23 up. If it's below it, leave it alone.

24 MS. NICKLAUS: I'll address part of
25 this, then maybe Howard or Tom might want to

1 address a portion of the question also.

2 Howard, in case you didn't hear it,
3 it's relating to setting the de minimus levels
4 for cleanup, and if no de minimus levels have
5 been set, why clean it up at all?

6 In answer to that, I would say that
7 this cleanup in this Interim Action is based on
8 risk base levels that the chromium, and not just
9 the rad cesium, the radiation of cesium-137 is
10 not the risk driver, it's also the chromium
11 through the inhalation pathways as the primary
12 driver, and the cleanup is to reduce the risk.

13 MR. SMITH: Donna, I believe you
14 asked Howard if he had a comment. Howard, did
15 you have a comment to follow up on that point?

16 MR. BLOOD: Just to reiterate, I
17 guess, or maybe take a different tack on what
18 Donna said, there is demonstrated risk from the
19 chromium and the rad, and at very least, I think
20 we can agree that any cleanup is better than no
21 cleanup. The establishing of a de minimus level
22 as being an appropriate cleanup standard I think
23 is clearly not within the scope of this Interim
24 Action, but we are certainly attempting to
25 minimize or reduce the existing risk that we can

1 demonstrate is there.

2 MR. SMITH: Thank you. Any other
3 questions on note cards -- oh, we have another
4 card.

5 MR. STOOPS: This question asked,
6 "The FFA Track 1's, Track 2's and Interim
7 Actions all precede the comprehensive WAG
8 Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study. Will
9 all of these have to be reevaluated in the Waste
10 Area Group Remedial Investigation Feasibility
11 Study?"

12 The Track 1's, Track 2's and Interim
13 Actions all support, or we hope all support what
14 goes into the Remedial Investigation and
15 Feasibility Study and the decision that emanates
16 from that one document. We would look for
17 concurrence on each aspect of it. The Track 1's
18 are a decision package, the Track 2's are a
19 decision package, and the Interim Action should
20 be an action which will support the final
21 action, and that final action should be carried
22 out after the RI/FS, so we would look for
23 concurrence between all the different documents.

24 Does that answer what you're asking?

25 MR. SMITH: We would ask the

1 individual who turned in the card, if there is a
2 follow-up, please feel free to turn in another
3 card or come to the microphone.

4 In the meantime, does anyone else
5 have a question they would like to put to the
6 panel? Let me indicate if there are no other
7 questions, in a few minutes what we would like
8 to do is take a short five minute break, then we
9 will come back and those of you who have signed
10 in to make prepared comments tonight, we'll take
11 those comments. And those of you who heard much
12 of the discussion, some of the questions we've
13 heard and comments already, and if you'd like to
14 make those at the microphone it would be entered
15 into the record. So another call for cards or
16 if someone would like to come to the microphone.

17 With that, then, why don't we take a
18 five minute short break, then we'll reconvene
19 and take the comment portion of the meeting.

20 (A recess was taken.)

21 MR. SMITH: Before we actually get
22 started, a question was asked earlier and a
23 commitment was made to get back with the
24 response. I would like Randy to go ahead and
25 read the question that came up and give the

1 response.

2 MR. BARGELT: "What radiation levels
3 are we talking about, maximum at the end of the
4 pond?" And Nick Stanisich did answer the
5 question. Would you still like us to respond to
6 you in writing?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just approximate
8 value.

9 MR. BARGELT: Okay, it was 5
10 millirem per hour on the pond and 3 millirem
11 per hour at the fence.

12 MR. SMITH: During this portion of
13 the meeting, we would like those who have
14 prepared comments, and I'm looking at those that
15 signed in tonight, it looks like we have one
16 individual who has indicated that they have
17 prepared comments to make. But before we hear
18 from that individual, if there are others of you
19 who would like to make comments, impromptu
20 comments, or we heard some questions in the
21 early section that could lead to comments, so we
22 would invite you to reflect on your question.
23 So if you do have a comment, feel free come to
24 the microphones and state your comment for the
25 record.

1 During this portion the court
2 reporter will be taking a verbatim comment. All
3 relevant comments in their entirety will be
4 listed and responded to in the Responsiveness
5 Summary.

6 We would ask you as you come to the
7 microphones, if you would please state your name
8 and address, that will ensure that we will be
9 able to send you a copy of the Responsiveness
10 Summary.

11 With that, we would like to ask who
12 would like to go first? Is there anyone who has
13 a prepared comment and would like to come to the
14 microphones at this time?

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Representative
16 Mel Richardson. I don't have prepared comments.
17 I came here to listen and learn. And I just had
18 the impression in talking to some of the
19 engineers, listening to what is here, we might
20 be looking at a case of overkill in trying to
21 clean this up, but on behalf of the people in
22 Idaho I would say thank you, because I think a
23 lot of us would like to know that you are that
24 concerned about a small pond out in the middle
25 of the desert and what it could do to the people

1 in the surrounding area, so I guess I come away
2 with a certain feeling of satisfaction and
3 comfort. You hate to see your dollars spent
4 unwisely, but I guess at the same time if this
5 is overkill, on behalf of a lot of citizens in
6 Idaho, I say thank you.

7 MR. SMITH: Thank you for your
8 comment. Other comments, please. While we're
9 waiting, I would like to remind you that we have
10 a written comment form in the back of the room.
11 If you think of something that turns up, if you
12 read the proposed plan, anything you heard in
13 the responses from the agencies tonight, we
14 would encourage you to turn in written comments
15 during the comment period.

16 It has been extended to May the
17 24th, so there is ample time to prepare written
18 comments. On the back of tonight's agenda it
19 listed the contact person, which is Jerry Lyle,
20 and also his name and mailing address appear on
21 the comment sheet. So we hope that's ample
22 information to remind you to send your comments
23 to.

24 In the interim, any second thoughts
25 of anyone making comments on this Interim Action

1 at the Power Burst Facility?

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you very
3 much. John Horan. My address is not necessary.
4 I'm on the distribution list.

5 It's unfortunate that the Department
6 of Energy has decided that, quote, "The future
7 use of the PBF reactor is not anticipated." To
8 me this is another bureaucratic rejection of the
9 boron/neutron capture therapy proposal which in
10 one month of operation could prevent more cancer
11 deaths than any health impacts from the INEL
12 from now until eternity if no cleanup actions
13 were taken.

14 I think that statement of mine is a
15 real indictment of our government's value
16 system. But let me get on to the main purpose
17 tonight of evaluating the PBF Evaporation Pond
18 Proposal. The criteria that I use in evaluating
19 any of the proposals remains the same. Is this
20 a cost effective use of taxpayers dollars to
21 modify a theoretical health risk?

22 In reading the proposed plan, I
23 cannot come up with an honest answer. No health
24 or environmental risk has been quantified. You
25 tell us an Interim Action is used to control a

1 current potential threat to human health or the
2 environment. We are also told in the proposal
3 that present levels of contamination may be
4 detrimental.

5 I then read the evaluation that the
6 three agencies have made, and I find on page 6
7 this statement, quote, "The risk posed to
8 workers and the general public during
9 implementation of any of the alternatives, and
10 this includes alternative No. 1 of No Action,
11 would be very small," unquote. Therefore, I
12 must assume that the risk to the public must be
13 orders of magnitude lower and most likely
14 nonexistent by any measurement or by any
15 realistic calculation.

16 No air sampling data is available on
17 chromium. Radiation exposure levels were not
18 presented in the proposal. We did hear about
19 them tonight, and they are really not that
20 significant. Even the Hot Spots to be removed
21 are not defined, they are relative numbers.
22 Nor, once again, as has happened at other of
23 these opening hearings, are the levels of
24 acceptable residual contamination defined. Yet
25 for this so-called Interim Cleanup, you have

1 recommended the spending of 300,000 to \$400,000
2 taxpayers dollars. When I place these facts
3 into my business machine it comes up "no sale."
4 But I forget that waste cleanup is not a
5 technical decision, but rather a political
6 approach to solving a potential problem.

7 Now, let's look at the single
8 alternate Interim Proposal, Hot Spot Removal. I
9 consider such a simplistic approach to be
10 totally inadequate and unworthy of fair
11 evaluation. What happened to the capping
12 alternative which was so highly valued in
13 considering the MTR Warm Waste Pond Cleanup?
14 Has this been considered? It's not even
15 mentioned. It meets the criteria of
16 environmental law, implementability and
17 certainly cost effectiveness. It would also
18 negate any of the very small risks to workers or
19 to the general public.

20 I also question why an Interim
21 Action is even being considered for such a minor
22 cleanup project. It sounds like a make-work
23 project. Don't complete the job, save enough of
24 the work so you have to redo it another day. If
25 your minds are made up to do more than is needed

1 to control this minor problem, doesn't it make
2 more sense to go all the way, remove all 9,800
3 cubic feet -- or is it cubic yards -- cubic feet
4 of sediment?

5 In the unlikely event that leakage
6 or penetration has occurred in the Hypalon
7 liner, then clean that up also, it won't amount
8 to any significant increase in the effort. I
9 don't consider this extra effort to remove all
10 the sediment is necessary, but the triumvirate
11 seems to be predisposed in that direction at a
12 later date. If that's the case, save the money
13 and effort by doing all the work under one
14 project at one time.

15 A final comment. If the only
16 options being considered are: A, treatment by
17 soil washing and disposal at the TRA Pond, or B,
18 treatment and disposal at the RWMC, Radioactive
19 Waste Management Complex, the choice should be
20 option B since it's cheaper, it's a proven and
21 simple technology and it's more easily
22 implemented.

23 The soil washing approach is more
24 complex and requires the use of a planned
25 treatment plant which may contain hidden costs

1 and problems.

2 My final observation is that the
3 proposed plan has been inadequately designed and
4 evaluated. It should be withdrawn to develop a
5 more complete, comparative analysis of other
6 feasible options.

7 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Horan.

9 Any other comments for this
10 evening's meeting on the Power Burst Interim
11 Action?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is
13 Beatrice Brailsford. My address is 310 East
14 Center, Pocatello 83201. I'm probably the only
15 person in this room who agrees with both Mr.
16 Richardson and Mr. Horan.

17 I would like to make one specific
18 comment about this particular cleanup plan, then
19 move into a comment about the process that I
20 think is illustrated by my specific comment.

21 Throughout this particular cleanup
22 plan, the agencies are talking about removing
23 the contaminants, and never once in the cleanup
24 plan as written or in the presentation here has
25 anyone said how in the world are you going to

1 remove it. We have the word "remove," and I
2 want to give you a little analogy. A car pulls
3 into the mall car parking lot, has a credit card
4 on the dashboard, the credit card is removed.
5 That's exactly what you told us here in the
6 mailing and in the meeting, that the credit card
7 was removed.

8 Now, the credit card might be
9 removed by the owner of the credit card and car,
10 and she spends an afternoon frittering away in
11 the mall. Or the credit card might be removed
12 by punching out the window and it's stolen and a
13 million dollars is run up in three weeks. The
14 same scenario is covered by the word "removal."

15 So back way up for real dunderheads
16 in the back of the room like me who the first
17 question is: How in the world are you going to
18 remove it? Then we can move on to this fancy
19 facility or the treatment or the disposal or the
20 chemical extraction. Let's start with the
21 simple word "remove."

22 It's sort of like if every parent in
23 this room went to a school meeting once a year.
24 We all got together in a room and we asked the
25 school: What are you going to be doing this

1 year? And the principal of the school said,
2 "Teaching." Then we all went home and thought
3 the principal of the school had done his job, he
4 fulfilled his responsibility, because he told us
5 that that school was going to be teaching.

6 What you're asking me to do is what
7 you would do if you went home from such a
8 meeting and felt that you had fulfilled your
9 responsibility, that you had gone to the
10 meeting, you asked the principal what is the
11 school going to do, the school said, "We're
12 going to teach." And you drove home feeling
13 real good. Hey, I've done my job. I've done my
14 part. I fulfilled my responsibility. And I'm
15 supposed to go home from these meetings feeling
16 the same way.

17 I also start hyperventilating
18 instead. I don't feel as if I have fulfilled my
19 responsibility at the ends of these meetings,
20 because I don't know anything that you're going
21 to remove the contaminants. It is my
22 responsibility. I've accepted it. I've
23 accepted what's at INEL in part as my burden. A
24 lot of folks I know, probably you know, have
25 posters up that say nuclear waste is a heavy

1 burden for our children and our children's
2 children and our children's children's children.
3 And I'm one of the children.

4 Already we have gone through one
5 generation and this burden has been passed to
6 me. And it will shortly be passed to people in
7 generations younger than I. What I'm afraid is
8 going to happen is the burden that I have
9 received will be further burdened by what I see
10 as an enormous amount of obfuscation and hubris
11 that has permeated this process so far, and I
12 think that it is crippling us.

13 Most of you know that I'm a staff
14 person for the Snake River Alliance. I am
15 tonight, by the way, speaking as an individual.
16 When I speak for the Alliance, I read it. We're
17 having a meeting to try and come up with a work
18 plan, we do that sort of thing too, and I intend
19 to propose that our cleanup objective for 1992
20 is that by the end of this year, nine more
21 months, we have one meeting within the borders
22 of this state that is open, public and honest,
23 so that we know what the word "remove" means.
24 So that if a dunderhead in the back of the room
25 starts questioning risk assessment, we get to

1 talk about, in fact, the political aspects for
2 risk assessment.

3 Now, I don't know what happens once
4 we've had that meeting, because that meeting has
5 never happened before. I don't know what would
6 happen if we all spoke honestly and publicly
7 with one another. But it's the only place to
8 start.

9 So I hope that we will, all of us
10 together, be able to work on that. Thank you.

11 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mrs.
12 Brailsford.

13 Any other comments from members of
14 the audience? Yes, Beatrice.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I do want to say
16 one more thing. My name is Beatrice Brailsford.
17 I heard a while back that the Environmental
18 Protection Agency spent over 80 percent of its
19 travel budget.

20 When I heard that I thought, well,
21 one regulator down, one to go. So EPA, Roger,
22 over and out.

23 MR. SMITH: Are there others of you
24 who would like to make a comment at the
25 microphones? Seeing no hands, I would just like

1 to remind you about the opportunity for written
2 comments, the colored sheet of paper at the back
3 of the room, there is a black tray there, if you
4 would like to take the time and fill it out this
5 evening and place it in the tray, then it will
6 go to the project managers at the table.

7 Those of you who would like to mail
8 it in, that information is also available.

9 With that, on behalf of the
10 agencies, our appreciation to all of you for
11 being here tonight and we appreciate your
12 participation. Thank you.

13
14 (The hearing concluded at 8:15 p.m.)
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24
25

Nancy Schwartz, CSR

Idaho Certified Shorthand Reporter

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PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE POWER BURST FACILITY
CORROSIVE WASTE SUMP AND EVAPORATION POND

PUBLIC MEETING
BURLEY, IDAHO
April 9, 1992

PANEL MEMBERS

Donna Nicklaus, DOE-ID
Thomas Stoops, IDHW-DEQ
Howard Blood, Region 10 EPA
Randy Bargelt, EG&G

STAFF SUPPORT

Mike Coe, INEL
Nick Stanisich,
Mountain States Engineering

NANCY SCHWARTZ, CSR
Idaho Certified Shorthand Reporter
2421 Anderson
Boise, Idaho 83702
208-345-2773

1 MR. ALLGOOD: Good evening. In
2 keeping with our very strict promptness policy,
3 at 6:30 we'll go ahead and start our meeting. I
4 want to thank everyone for coming out this
5 evening.

6 I do see quite a few new faces. For
7 those of you who don't know who I am, my name is
8 Lane Allgood. I'm the guy that staffs the INEL
9 Outreach office in Twin Falls.

10 I want to take a brief second and
11 plug our office, because we need work. But we
12 do have an office, and we're going on our third
13 year in Twin Falls, and we're there to respond
14 to questions you have concerning INEL programs
15 or procedures or operations.

16 If you or anyone you know of have
17 questions concerning INEL's operations or want
18 more information or you need an answer or you
19 want to flat make a comment, please feel free to
20 contact us in Twin Falls.

21 I put a stack of my business cards
22 in the back. Please feel free to take one when
23 you leave. If you find that you want to comment
24 on an issue or you have a question, whether it
25 be environmental or anything else, if you can't

1 remember the number, do not look up INEL,
2 because it's not under INEL. Look under the
3 white pages under U.S. Government, under the
4 Department of Energy and lo and behold there we
5 are. Most people have a tough time finding it
6 and I understand why. I worked here for about a
7 year and a half before I was able to find it in
8 the phone book. So look under U.S. Government,
9 under Department of Energy.

10 Tonight is our second meeting in a
11 row held in Burley, our Magic Valley meeting.
12 Tonight we're here to discuss cleanup projects
13 at the Power Burst Facility. With all of our
14 environmental restoration programs and meetings,
15 we would ask you that during the course of the
16 official part of our meeting tonight we would
17 hope that you would keep your comments and your
18 questions relative to tonight's project.

19 If however, you have a question
20 concerning another INEL-related issue, if you
21 can wait during the break or wait afterwards and
22 approach us with that, we would be more than
23 happy to answer those. If we cannot answer it
24 tonight, we'll do some research for you. If you
25 really do have a question and you can't wait

1 until the end of the evening, please feel to
2 attack my coworker, Mike Coe. Mike, would you
3 raise your hand. Please give Mike a tap and
4 step outside the room and address your question
5 to him. Mike, hopefully will be able to respond
6 to your question. Again, if he doesn't have an
7 answer we'll find one for you.

8 With that, I want to thank everyone
9 for coming out. I'll turn the time over to our
10 moderator, Reuel Smith. You all know Reuel, he
11 is the coordinator of the community relations
12 plan. We didn't think he was earning his money
13 doing that so his job is now moderator of our
14 public meetings. Reuel Smith.

15 MR. SMITH: Thanks. Boy, do I like
16 meetings. I appreciate that introduction, Lane.
17 we are appreciative of the fact that the Twin
18 Falls office has been helpful in answering a
19 number of questions for individuals living in
20 the Magic Valley.

21 I see some new faces tonight, and we
22 appreciate you coming to the meeting tonight.
23 And I see some familiar faces of those that have
24 attended before in the past. And we appreciate
25 your participation with us.

1 Tonight I would like to just ask if
2 you have any concerns about -- because we are
3 working with the Community Relations Plan, if
4 you have concerns about printed material or
5 printed material that you're receiving in the
6 mail, if you talk to myself or Eric Simpson. I
7 would like to introduce Eric. Eric please
8 stand.

9 Eric Simpson is the editor of this
10 newsletter, and I notice several of you are on
11 the mailing list to receive this. If there are
12 articles that you would like to see, issues that
13 we haven't covered that you would like to have
14 us talk about, talk to one of us about that and
15 we'll see what we can do.

16 Also, if you have some interest or
17 concerns about access to information, we have an
18 information repository and public library. We
19 would be glad to talk to you about that also.

20 Now, the agencies that are involved
21 in this cleanup project are holding two
22 meetings. One was held last night in Idaho
23 Falls, and this meeting is the second meeting
24 here in Burley. And we recently received a
25 number of comments from citizens regarding the

1 number of meetings that we're holding on these
2 plans and the frequency of these meetings and so
3 forth, and the meeting locations.

4 Tonight we would like you to know
5 that today we have some individuals here in
6 Burley to talk about how we can go about this
7 process in a better fashion. And we're doing
8 some preliminary talks to identify issues of
9 concern from citizens. We're planning to do
10 some interactive workshops, possibly in late
11 May, to find out your ideas and suggestions on
12 how to improve the way the Department of Energy
13 in particular is communicating information to
14 you, and how we can increase your involvement in
15 these programs.

16 Now, as Lane mentioned, the topic
17 tonight is an Interim Action, and I would like
18 to touch on that momentarily. In the Federal
19 Facility Agreement and Consent Order -- this is
20 an agreement that was signed in December between
21 the Department of Energy, the State of Idaho and
22 the Environmental Protection Agency Region 10,
23 Seattle -- this agreement essentially lines out
24 the types of cleanup projects that we will have
25 at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

1 If you would like a copy of this, we have some
2 available, but I think you'd find this a very
3 interesting document.

4 Tonight's subject of an Interim
5 Action is about an action that the agencies are
6 recommending to reduce, control or eliminate a
7 problem with contamination with one of our
8 facilities at the INEL.

9 Now, the comment period. We usually
10 have a 30-day comment period on these projects,
11 and usually we try to send this material out to
12 the public and give you early notice about the
13 availability of the proposed plans, and this
14 particular time we had a problem with our
15 mailing list. I notice that the gentleman here
16 in the audience received his, for which I'm
17 glad. But three-fourths of the names on our
18 mailing list did receive the mailing that was
19 sent out on March 19th, but one-fourth of the
20 names didn't come out on our mailing list, so
21 the copies of their plans arrived late. Because
22 of that, we received a request from the citizens
23 group to extend the comment period.

24 The agencies have agreed to extend
25 the comment period, and formal notice will be

1 going out after this series of meetings, so the
2 comment period now will end on May 24th, for
3 your information.

4 Now, the purpose of our meeting
5 tonight is to have -- I think some of you were
6 early at our informational session, having some
7 informal discussions with some project managers.
8 We appreciate you coming early to take advantage
9 of that opportunity. But we'll also go into a
10 little more depth here in our presentation; then
11 we'll encourage you to ask questions. If there
12 is something that is not clear about this
13 project, we'll give you an opportunity to get
14 those points clarified.

15 Then we'll go into a period of time
16 when we'll ask those that have prepared comments
17 or who would like to make a statement for the
18 record to do so. Now, that's kind of an overall
19 look at this.

20 Now, I would like to introduce some
21 of the folks that will be talking tonight.
22 These are people that you'll want to ask
23 questions of. I will start out -- all these
24 individuals at this table are project managers.
25 They represent different agencies. And starting

1 from the far left is Tom Stoops, who is the
2 representative from the State of Idaho. Tom is
3 in the office in Idaho Falls and has been
4 assigned to work on this. He's the project
5 manager for this facility at the INEL on behalf
6 of the State of Idaho.

7 Next to Tom is Donna Nicklaus, who
8 is the Department of Energy project manager for
9 this project. And next to Donna is Randy
10 Bargelt. Randy is from EG&G. You might hear
11 people use the word "contractor." EG&G
12 contracts with the Department of Energy to
13 operate the facility and to manage the
14 cleanup program. Randy will be doing the
15 presentation tonight.

16 Now, you may have noticed a
17 conversation going on over at the telephone.
18 Tonight we have a representative from the
19 Environmental Protection Agency in Seattle who
20 is connected to us by way of the telephone, and
21 I would like to introduce Howard Blood, who
22 is the Environmental Protection Agency
23 representative on this project. And we just
24 want to check our telephone connection and make
25 sure things are working. Howard, are you there?

1 MR. BLOOD: Yes, I am. You're not
2 coming over as clear and good as last night;
3 however, I can make everything out. So I would
4 say we're okay.

5 MR. SMITH: Lane has just adjusted
6 the speakers, so I think we can hear. Can you
7 hear okay in the back?

8 Howard, you were saying it was hard
9 for you to hear what we're saying here?

10 MR. BLOOD: It's better now.

11 MR. SMITH: Lane just turned up the
12 volume; maybe that will help. I hope that's not
13 too uncomfortable for the audience.

14 Well, I would like to ask these
15 individuals if they would like to make a comment
16 so that you can get familiar with them and the
17 agency they work for. Tom, we'll start with
18 you.

19 MR. STOOPS: Good evening. I'm Tom
20 Stoops. I'm with the State of Idaho. I'm the
21 Waste Group manager in the Idaho Falls field
22 office. I'm the Waste Area manager for the
23 Power Burst Facility.

24 I would like to extend thanks for
25 all of you to take the time out from your busy

1 schedule to be here. We know that your input
2 is important to what we call the circle of
3 process. We look forward to hearing from you
4 either verbally this evening or through your
5 written comments, which we do encourage that you
6 submit. Of the three agencies represented, the
7 State, the EPA and DOE, we worked diligently
8 coming up with this proposed plan, and it did
9 come up as a consensus between all three
10 agencies.

11 This meeting tonight and the
12 subsequent opportunities for you to give us the
13 written comments is your chance to participate
14 in the process. We want to encourage that you
15 do that. The other point we would like to
16 stress is that this is a proposed plan. We
17 haven't made any kind of final selections on
18 what our alternative or what the options will
19 be, and we would like you to give us your
20 comments on both the alternatives and the
21 options listed in the proposed plan or others
22 that you may have done.

23 MS. NICKLAUS: Thanks, Tom. I'm
24 Donna Nicklaus. I'm the DOE manager on this
25 project. I would like to welcome you all here

1 tonight. It's good to see that we have a pretty
2 good turnout here.

3 And, again, I would like to
4 reiterate that this is a proposed plan for this
5 Interim Action at the Power Burst Facility and
6 we welcome your comments, both tonight during
7 the meeting or any written comments that you
8 submit during the comment period. And I guess
9 I'll turn it over to Howard.

10 MR. BLOOD: Thank you, Donna. I
11 want to also welcome all the participants to the
12 meeting. I would like to reiterate that we're
13 interested in hearing your comments. I can
14 respond immediately rather than having to wait
15 for a written comment sent to me. So please do
16 participate this evening.

17 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you. It
18 seemed like, Howard, you were cutting out a
19 little bit. Did you detect that? I'm not sure
20 what the problem is there, but I think we got
21 the gist of what you were saying, Howard.

22 Just to reiterate, the Environmental
23 Protection Agency is connected tonight so they
24 can answer questions that come their way tonight
25 rather than waiting for written responses or

1 written questions and so forth through the mail.
2 I hope that this is more interactive in this
3 fashion.

4 With that, I would like to just
5 solve one of the curious things that you may
6 have discussed tonight. As you sat down on the
7 chair there is a little piece of paper, some
8 note cards. The purpose of the note card is to
9 invite you to write down questions or concerns
10 that you have as you hear the presentation this
11 evening. In just a moment we would like to
12 have Randy Bargelt give the presentation.

13 But we want to let you know these
14 note cards serve a couple points. As you write
15 down your questions or concerns, we'll ask after
16 this presentation that you hand those cards in.
17 One of the benefits is that all the details of
18 your questions or concerns won't be lost through
19 interpretations if I had to restate it, for
20 instance, for the panel.

21 So we'll ask Eric to collect those
22 cards when the presentation is over, if you
23 would like to hand those to the end of the row
24 or just hold it up in the air and Eric will
25 collect it. It has worked fairly well at other

1 meetings. Feel free to submit two or three
2 cards and hold them up any time a question comes
3 up, and we'll bring them up to the panel.

4 There will be a time tonight after
5 the presentation to ask questions of
6 clarification if anything was unclear, to get
7 that clarified, and just to restate a time that
8 we'd like to ask you if you have any statements,
9 or if anything comes to mind during the meeting
10 that you'd like to state into the record, we'll
11 go into that.

12 We have an opportunity tonight to
13 see a proposal that includes several
14 alternatives. One of the alternatives includes
15 several options. I just want to make you aware
16 that we're interested in comments on the options
17 as well as the alternatives.

18 Now, here is a very important
19 question that may be on your minds. What
20 happens to your comments once you make them
21 tonight? After the agencies review the body of
22 public comment, either given orally in the
23 meeting or written comments that have been
24 turned in through the mail or handed in this
25 evening, the agencies prepare a document that is

1 called a Responsiveness Summary where they
2 address the comments that were made and how they
3 affected the decisions that they are going to be
4 making. That Responsiveness Summary will be
5 placed in an administrative record file.
6 Presently that file is located in the Twin Falls
7 Public Library, and you're welcome to have
8 access to that.

9 Also, if you signed in this evening,
10 we will mail you a copy of that Responsiveness
11 Summary so that you'll be aware of the comments
12 that were raised around the state and the
13 agencies' response to those comments.

14 Additionally, as you notice, we have
15 a court reporter here, who is doing a verbatim
16 transcript of tonight's meeting. Copies of the
17 meeting's transcript will also be placed in the
18 administrative record, so you will have access
19 to clarify anything that you want to review.

20 Now, with that let's turn the time
21 over to Randy and have his presentation. If
22 he's going through and there is a slide that
23 isn't clear to you, feel free to say, "I didn't
24 understand that, could you explain that one more
25 time," and he'll go over that at that time.

1 Randy.

2 MR. BARGELT: Thank you, Reuel. My
3 name is Randy Bargelt. I'm the Waste Area Group
4 5 manager for EG&G. I'm going to present the
5 agencies' proposed plan for an Interim Action at
6 the Power Burst Facility Evaporation Pond and
7 Corrosive Waste Sump. Those two smaller
8 facilities comprise operable Unit 5-13. And we
9 have each of our individual waste area groups
10 split up into operable units. Within Waste Area
11 5 there are 13 operable units.

12 Power Burst Facility is located on
13 the INEL, and on Highway 26 between Blackfoot
14 and the site you'll notice the Power Burst
15 Facility is located approximately six miles
16 north of the highway. The Power Burst Facility
17 reactor was in operation from 1972 to 1985, and
18 it was built to perform testing on the
19 pressurized water reactor fuel rods.

20 This is a photograph of the
21 facility. And the operable unit consists of
22 this Corrosive Waste Sump here and the lined
23 Evaporation Pond here. The actual facilities --
24 these are the cooling towers for the reactor
25 which was housed in here.

1 The secondary coolant water, which
2 is what this treatment facility treated, was
3 emptied about four times a year from here for
4 maintenance, and that water contained X amount
5 of chromium that was added for a rust inhibitor
6 and/or an algal inhibitor, to keep the algae
7 from growing in the water.

8 The hexavalent chromium was treated
9 in this building -- the water was treated in
10 this building -- to reduce the chromium,
11 hexavalent chromium, to the less toxic trivalent
12 chromium with sulfur dioxide. That water was
13 then sent to the Corrosive Waste Sump, which is
14 here, where it was neutralized to a pH of 6.5 or
15 7.0, then again was sent to the pond for
16 evaporation.

17 This is a diagram which simplified,
18 and it shows basically the pond and how it
19 worked. This is a diagram of the cooling tower
20 and reactor building where the sulfur dioxide
21 was run through the less toxic trivalent
22 chromium. Then it went through the Corrosive
23 Waste Sump, and if you notice, the waste sump is
24 mostly below ground. Then it was sent out
25 through the pipe to the Evaporation Pond, where

1 it was evaporated. This is a picture of the
2 Corrosive Waste Sump, which is an 11 by 11
3 square foot by 14 foot in height concrete
4 structure. Only about three feet is sticking
5 above the ground. The solution which entered
6 through the sump from this side was treated,
7 like I said, was neutralized, then it was sent
8 out to the evaporation pond here. This is the
9 evaporation pond, and it is surrounded by a
10 six-foot-tall cyclone fence.

11 I might also point out there are
12 about 1300 gallons of water at the bottom of the
13 sump, and it does have cesium and chromium in
14 the water. We will remove that water and test
15 it, then dispose of it in the proper fashion.
16 After the water is removed, we'll decontaminate
17 the sump and the pipeline to the pond.

18 This is the photograph of the pond.
19 There is the cooling tower again and the reactor
20 building. The Corrosive Waste Sump is just on
21 the other side of this berm, and here is the
22 discharge pipe. The pond itself is about 140
23 feet by 140 feet square on the inside dimension.
24 There is approximately six inches of sediment
25 that covers the bottom of this pond.

1 The sediment was put there
2 intentionally to hold the liner down to keep it
3 from blowing away and also to protect the liner
4 from the ultraviolet sun rays. You'll also
5 notice a few wind-blown plants that are blown
6 into here. They are not growing into the
7 sediment pond. The liner itself is a 30 mil
8 Hypalon liner. Hypalon is similar to the
9 material that rubber rafts are constructed of.

10 Our contaminants of concern are
11 chromium and cesium. And from our sampling
12 activities that we have done in the past, we
13 noticed an association between the higher values
14 of chromium, the higher values of cesium and
15 their locations within the pond.

16 And we see here higher values .
17 generally do correlate together in the same
18 samples, not all of the time, but on a general
19 basis there is a good correlation, and this is
20 important to us because in our proposed Hot Spot
21 Removal we will use cesium as the indicator
22 element that we will clean up by portable
23 radiation testers.

24 The exposure pathways are inhalation
25 of chromium through dust or particulate matter

1 in the air to workers on the site, and direct
2 exposures to ionized radiation from cesium-137.
3 And the exposure at the fence line, as I pointed
4 out before, is about three to five millirems.

5 The purpose of an Interim Action
6 under CERCLA or Superfund is to remove,
7 eliminate or reduce exposure to immediate risk.
8 And the immediate risks are to the workers at
9 the site, also to perform an early action to
10 expedite the overall site cleanup on the INEL.

11 Within this proposed plan we are
12 proposing two alternatives. One alternative is
13 No Action, and the second alternative is Hot
14 Spot Removal, which is the agencies' preferred
15 alternative. Hot Spot here is a relative term.
16 When you think of hot spot, you think of highly
17 contaminated areas, but we're dealing with very
18 low level waste and the hot spots here are just
19 the high values of the cesium and chromium
20 within the pond itself. So we're dealing with
21 low level waste.

22 Under the alternative we're
23 proposing two treatment options. One is
24 treatment with disposal at the Test Reactor Area
25 treatment plant and disposal at the Warm Waste

1 Pond and treatment with disposal at the
2 Radioactive Waste Management Complex.

3 The description of the alternatives,
4 alternative No. 1 is No Action. The contaminants
5 will remain in place; there will be no reduction
6 in risk or exposure to the workers on the site.
7 We didn't consider this any further because it
8 did not meet the threshold criteria.

9 Alternative No. 2, Hot Spot Removal,
10 which, again, is the preferred alternative, we
11 propose to remove the concentrated sediments at
12 various locations within the pond, and we'll do
13 that using field screening with a portable
14 radiation detector where we'll survey the entire
15 surface of the pond, identify areas of higher
16 concentration of cesium with the chromium
17 associated with them, then we will remove just
18 enough of the sediments to lower the risk to get
19 the higher concentrations of those elements
20 removed.

21 What this will do by using this
22 technique is minimize the waste that we have to
23 remove and treat and dispose of. And we'll also
24 reduce the risk of the entire pond for the
25 workers on the site. When we finish the removal

1 action we will take samples of the entire pond
2 area again to verify that we have met the goals
3 of the Interim Action.

4 This is a diagram of a summary of
5 our past sampling results, and this area here on
6 the bottom is 140-foot square area that contains
7 the sediments. As I mentioned before it
8 averages about six inches in thickness. There
9 is about 360 yards total cubic yards of total
10 sediments in the pond. Each one of those dots
11 indicates an area that was sampled. The
12 burgundy colored areas are areas that we have
13 identified that we feel we will have to remove
14 those sediments right now or when we perform the
15 removal action.

16 And these areas here we feel are
17 below, and probably below we'll leave those
18 sediments. But you'll notice there are areas
19 that do not have any samples in them. We will,
20 like I mentioned before, screen the entire pond
21 with a portable radiation detector and identify
22 other areas within the pond where we will remove
23 the higher concentration sediments. We think we
24 may remove up to 100 cubic yards of material.

25 Under the second alternative we have

1 two treatment and disposal options. One is to
2 treat at the processing facility proposed to the
3 Warm Waste Pond Interim Action. We will
4 transport and remove sediment from the
5 evaporation pond to the proposed treatment plan
6 at the Test Reactor Area, treat the sediments
7 and dispose of treated sediments into the Warm
8 Waste Pond and cap it as per that Interim Action
9 for the Test Reactor Area. Within that -- the
10 reason we want to do this is because we have
11 like -- the sediments in the Test Reactor Area
12 Warm Waste Pond and the Power Burst Facility
13 Evaporation Pond are basically the same. They
14 are pea size to sand size sediments, and they
15 also contain some contaminants, cesium in the
16 sediments at the Warm Waste Pond, and there is
17 cesium and chromium both at the Warm Waste Pond,
18 and cesium and chromium both at the Power Burst
19 Facility Evaporation Pond. So the process is
20 compatible for both sides.

21 MR. SMITH: Randy, I wonder if I
22 might interrupt. For those of you who may not
23 be aware, last August we held public meetings
24 similar to this about this other facility he's
25 referring to called the Test Reactor Area.

1 There is a similar situation where they had
2 cooling tower waters that were discharged into a
3 pond. So I was just wondering for a background,
4 if some of you weren't aware of that, that is a
5 location where it went through a similar cleanup
6 process and they are proposing a treatment
7 facility.

8 I just wondered if that might be
9 helpful. At some point in time, if something
10 seems unclear or vague or you don't have the
11 background on it, just raise your hand and say
12 could you elaborate on that, that would be fine.

13 MR. BARGELT: The other thing we
14 would do with our sediments, as I said, is clean
15 sediments would be put into the Warm Waste Pond.
16 The Warm Waste Pond Interim Action is going to
17 clean up approximately 21,000 cubic yards of
18 sediments. Within this Interim Action we're
19 only going to have a maximum of 100 cubic yards.
20 So we would be adding to the Warm Waste Pond
21 about one-half of one percent of that per
22 volume.

23 To finish this slide, we transported
24 to the Test Reactor Area, treat the sediments
25 there and dispose of the sediments in the pond

1 and they would be capped.

2 Option B would be to transport
3 sediments to the Radioactive Waste Management
4 Complex, mix the sediments with cement and
5 inject the cement slurry into certified low
6 level waste containers that exist at RWMC.

7 For an example, what we would be
8 doing is filling void spaces within a box. This
9 is just one of the waste containers. Within
10 this there is a cut-up underground storage tank
11 that has been put in here for disposal. There
12 the associated piping has been put in here. If
13 you notice there is quite a bit of void space
14 within those containers. What we propose to do
15 is inject the cement slurry into these
16 containers and fill the voids. And this is
17 about how it looks, like this is how it would
18 be. The box I showed you previously is not this
19 box, but is an example.

20 And you'll notice how the void
21 spaces within the box were filled up very nicely
22 with the sediment grout mixture, then it
23 hardens. It looks like there is an irregular
24 shaped object from here comparable to the
25 irregular shaped object in the previous slide.

1 It looks like it's holding up very good and
2 filled up the void spaces efficiently.

3 Another advantage to do this would
4 be that the box itself, the strength would be
5 increased so when they were stacked at the
6 Radioactive Management Complex they would be
7 more stable.

8 So the final thing would be disposal
9 of these boxes at the Radioactive Waste
10 Management Complex.

11 That's about all I have for my
12 presentation. And we would like to ask for
13 comments on both alternatives and on the
14 treatment and disposal options. And I would
15 like to let you know what the schedule is for
16 the rest of this project.

17 As Reuel mentioned, the public
18 comment period has been extended to May 24th of
19 this year. And during the summer we will
20 address the public comments and prepare the
21 Responsiveness Summary. In the fall we will
22 issue a Record of Decision, and then we'll
23 prepare a remedial design. In the Spring of
24 1993 we will propose to perform the Remedial
25 Action.

1 Thank you very much for your time.

2 MR. SMITH: Before Randy sits down,
3 were there any points that you saw on these
4 slides that you would like to have him go back
5 over or clarify before we go to general the
6 question/answer session? Randy, thanks.

7 For some of you who are being
8 introduced to this kind of a subject and a topic
9 for the first time, we would like to indicate to
10 you that even though we've mentioned there is a
11 certain time during this meeting when you would
12 be asked to give prepared statements, if you
13 don't feel prepared tonight to make oral
14 comments, feel free to pick up a comment form at
15 the back of the room. It's on the colored sheet
16 of paper and you can take that home with you.
17 There is a mailing address on here where you can
18 actually send your comment in to the Department
19 of Energy, which will in turn be communicated
20 with the other agencies. Again, if you turn
21 those in before the end of the comment period,
22 that will be appreciated.

23 Now, did anyone have any comments or
24 questions that they would like to hand in on
25 those note cards? But also we would like to ask

1 you if have any questions, feel free to come to
2 this microphone, and I think with the
3 competition in the surrounding rooms, it will be
4 well to use the microphone so that everyone can
5 hear the question. And we'll direct your
6 question to one of the agencies, or you may even
7 specify you would like to have a question for
8 one of these agencies.

9 Any general questions?

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do I have to give
11 my name?

12 MR. SMITH: No, not during this
13 part.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I wanted to know
15 how deep the water is in the Evaporation Pond?

16 MR. BARGELT: How deep the water
17 was?

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

19 MR. BARGELT: At the present time,
20 there is about a foot of water on top of the
21 sediments to keep dust from blowing off the
22 pond.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Will you have to
24 wait until that evaporates before you can start?

25 MR. BARGELT: Yes, we will.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: How long will that
2 take?

3 MR. BARGELT: We think once the
4 alternative has been chosen, we will stop
5 putting water in the pond. We think about the
6 beginning of this fall the water will evaporate
7 and we will be able to perform the action in the
8 spring.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Now, you're not
10 still using the pond, you're just keeping the
11 water on it to keep the sediments from blowing
12 dust; is that right?

13 MR. BARGELT: Right now we are
14 keeping water on it, and not letting it dry out.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But it's not water
16 that has been contaminated from the sump, is it?

17 MR. BARGELT: Not now.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Not now?

19 MR. BARGELT: Not now, but they do
20 still occasionally, because the Power Burst
21 Facility Reactor, correct me if I'm wrong, still
22 does purge occasionally, empty occasionally for
23 maintenance purposes.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you know how
25 often?

1 MR. BARGELT: About two times a year
2 now.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can I go ahead
4 or --

5 MR. SMITH: I think you're fine.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I was curious
7 about the liner. It was put in in 1977 or 1978;
8 is that correct?

9 MR. BARGELT: '78.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So what is the
11 projected shelf life of one of those liners?

12 MR. BARGELT: The projected shelf
13 life varies between how the liners are used.
14 Normally the under good conditions, when they
15 are good, my experience has only been about 15
16 years or so, but it varies depending on how much
17 they are exposed to various conditions, what
18 kind of materials are on the liners and how much
19 is exposed. You can't really give it a definite
20 shelf life answer that I'm aware of.

21 MS. NICKLAUS: I could add to that
22 just a little bit. As Randy stated, there is
23 water in the pond, and although we cannot verify
24 the integrity of the liner at this time, there
25 is no indication that we have a leak due to the

1 observations of water standing in the pond.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But I'm wondering,
3 how can you know that, because in your manual
4 down here on page 3 it says that there is no
5 leak detection system under the liner and no
6 samples have been collected from beneath the
7 liner to determine if leakage and
8 subsequent contamination of the soils beneath
9 liner have occurred.

10 MS. NICKLAUS: That's correct. And
11 for this Interim Action we're looking at
12 removing the concentrated contaminated sediments
13 in the pond and sump area. However, I believe
14 it also states in the proposed plan that before
15 this area would be considered clean and be
16 closed out, we would sample underneath the liner
17 to verify that leakage had not occurred.

18 MR. SMITH: Yes.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: To go along with
20 this -- my name is Dr. Miles. I have a question
21 on this. If you got a leak, say it goes down to
22 150 feet, down below, that means you have to dig
23 all that out; right?

24 MR. SMITH: Donna, do you want to
25 take that question?

1 MS. NICKLAUS: I'll give a response.
2 If someone else would like to add in, please
3 feel free to do so.

4 We would have -- it would not just
5 be based on the leak and how far down it went,
6 it would be based on concentration present. If
7 any contamination occurred beneath the liner,
8 sampling would take place and that would
9 determine what concentrations are present of any
10 potential contaminants; then we would evaluate
11 if there is a risk present due to the presence
12 of those contaminants.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Well, it seems to
14 me that if you have no leak detection system
15 there, it wouldn't hurt to do some detection
16 system and some core samples underneath there.

17 MR. BARGELT: If I can add something
18 to that. When we do our verification sampling
19 under the liner, the geology out there between
20 the bottom of the liner and the top of the
21 basalt, there is approximately about six feet of
22 unconsolidated material that sits there, sandy
23 gravel, clay, dirt, topsoil and then from that
24 point down it is all lava flow. Okay. So if
25 the amount of volume of water that has gone into

1 that pond is because it does hold solution now
2 efficiently, if there is any leakage, it's not a
3 big leak. So most of it is evaporated, and it
4 would probably be, if there was any leakage at
5 all would be confined to that alluvium, is what
6 we call it, the unconsolidated material. And it
7 probably wouldn't have gone into the basalt into
8 the lava flow. There hasn't been that much
9 volume of water over a period of time put into
10 the pond.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Another question
12 on that. I know our winters haven't been that
13 bad, but when the winters get bad we get some
14 freezing. We well know the contractions and
15 things that go on and pose expansion with this
16 liner that would create some problems too..

17 MR. BARGELT: Until we do our
18 sampling, it is a possibility.

19 MR. SMITH: I'm going to make one
20 note here. Also, some of the questions you're
21 asking also bear a resemblance to a comment. If
22 you would also like to come back, we're going to
23 have a comment session here in a minute or two,
24 so feel free to also repeat those comments for
25 the record, because as I indicated, there is a

1 Responsiveness Summary that will be put together
2 and those comments that were received during
3 that period will be addressed in that summary.

4 MR. STOOPS: If I could close this
5 out. One of the things that we'll do after we
6 remediate the sediments in the pond with the
7 alternative selected, we'll do verification
8 sampling.

9 The entire area will be readdressed
10 during the WAG RI/FS. Part of the WAG RI/FS
11 will be addressing the kind of questions that
12 you brought up, and we'll use the sampling that
13 we have in the pond now, the verification
14 sampling that we'll take, the samples that are
15 taken out that are below the pond in the
16 alluvium, and if there is still indications that
17 we need to go deeper during the WAG RI/FS,
18 that's what we will do now.

19 MR. SMITH: Tom, will you explain
20 what WAG stands for, RI/FS?

21 MR. STOOPS: The RI/FS is the
22 Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study. Do
23 you want these explained?

24 MR. SMITH: I'm just wondering how
25 many folks know what a Remedial Investigation

1 Feasibility Study is. Just for purposes of this
2 conversation period, it might be well to
3 highlight a couple parts of that.

4 MR. STOOPS: The remedial
5 investigation is bureaucratically driven, it's
6 highly outlined, there will be a work plan that
7 is put together between the DOE, the EPA and the
8 State to concur on. The purpose behind that is
9 to generate a high level of data that can
10 support both the risk assessment, which will
11 follow the remedial investigation, and the
12 statistics that go along with that, so we do
13 quite a bit more sampling. The samples that are
14 taken are tested at more rigorous levels. There
15 is a ton of paperwork that is generated, and
16 that is to create a paper trail so that it can
17 be a legalistic document.

18 What is in that document is very
19 legal. It's very definable, it's very traceable
20 and there is concurrence between the three
21 agencies on what is going to be done.

22 MR. SMITH: Along that line, I would
23 like to see if Howard is still alive on the
24 other end of the phone. Howard, have you any
25 comments that you would like to make?

1 MR. BLOOD: The only time it
2 occurred to me to add something was when you
3 were discussing the possibility of a liner
4 leakage; is perhaps the size of the trickles
5 that we're talking about. The radionuclides are
6 relatively large common structures and it's very
7 likely, as I think Randy mentioned, that there
8 could be leakage out into the soil. The water
9 can pass through the soil very easily, but the
10 contaminants partition off into the soil
11 particles and stay resident in most cases.

12 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Howard.
13 Could everyone hear that okay? I know it's
14 still kind of cutting out on some words a little
15 bit, Howard. If everyone understood, then we
16 won't have anyone here restate that. Yes,,
17 Carol.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm thinking about
19 this liner still. And it's 14 years old. I'm
20 wondering if you plan to reuse this pond after
21 you do the cleanup?

22 MS. NICKLAUS: The reuse of this
23 pond has not been determined yet; however, if
24 the pond was
25 reused, a new liner would be placed prior to

1 use.

2 Also one thing to point out during
3 any use that would occur in the future, chromium
4 is not used anymore; it is not used as an
5 inhibitor, so the chromium would not be added to
6 the pond.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: How about the
8 cesium?

9 MS. NICKLAUS: That would depend on
10 the discharge water. Cesium, it would depend on
11 use of the pond. The use of the pond has not
12 been determined. The reactor has been placed in
13 the shutdown mode, so the reactor would not be
14 used; however, the pond may be used for other
15 uses of the facility, or as I said, it's been
16 undetermined at this point.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Now, do you still
18 use the same type of liners? So if you replace
19 the liner will it still be another of the very
20 same type, or have they improved?

21 MR. BARGELT: I can't answer
22 specifically for operations for you exactly what
23 kind of liner that they would use. But there
24 are different kinds of liners that are in use
25 today in landfills and various other kinds of

1 operations that are higher quality than Hypalon
2 liners, specifically high density polyethylene.
3 There are other options. There is also a new
4 standard out that when you rebuild a liner or
5 build a new pond you have to build a double
6 liner and install the leak detection system.

7 MR. SMITH: Can those in back hear
8 when the questions are being asked up here? Any
9 note cards that anyone would like to hand in?
10 Sometimes we don't like to talk into
11 microphones, so you're welcome to write down a
12 question on a card and just hold that up and
13 Eric will pick that up, or you're welcome to
14 come to the microphone and ask some questions.
15 Carol.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I feel like I'm
17 hogging.

18 MR. SMITH: You're not. Sometimes
19 by asking questions we all learn something, so
20 questions are really encouraged.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: This is a
22 different area. I was wondering about the
23 grouting, and I wondered if -- well, what
24 research has been done to show that grouting is
25 effective in the long term? Has there been any

1 research done on that?

2 MR. BARGELT: The research that has
3 been done today at INEL that I'm aware of are
4 some experiments that were done on sediments
5 that were similar to what we have. They
6 experimented on different mixtures of ratios of
7 cement to sediment, different water mixtures and
8 actually different additives to this cement to
9 make it stronger. And as to exactly what
10 studies have been done in the past, that I don't
11 know. But we would in our remedial design
12 phase, if that alternative is chosen, we would
13 go through and actually run those tests.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you have any
15 idea how long the grout will hold up?

16 MR. BARGELT: Not specifically. I
17 couldn't say 100 years, five years. I don't
18 have the data in front of me to tell you that,
19 but we would determine that absolutely as long
20 as we can project it if that alternative is
21 chosen. A fairly long period of time.

22 MS. NICKLAUS: I think in the
23 treatability studies that have been done to date
24 I cannot remember the exact number of days, but
25 they did track the grout after it had been set

1 up and just looked at it for different lengths
2 of time to see if it was cracking or if it was
3 holding up and staying solid.

4 MR. SMITH: Are there any questions
5 that come to mind that you would like to ask the
6 State of Idaho or the Environmental Protection
7 Agency or the Department of Energy, any specific
8 questions that might come to mind?

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I take it most of
10 you are pretty well in agreement as to what is
11 going on; is that right?

12 MR. SMITH: Would you like to
13 address that, Tom?

14 MR. STOOPS: When the proposed plan
15 comes out, it's based on a concurrence between
16 the three agencies, and we agreed to present the
17 two alternatives that you have in front of you
18 and the two options. Other than that, we don't
19 have any agreement on what the final outcome
20 will be. That's why I didn't nod my head, we
21 don't know what the final outcome will be. We
22 agreed what the alternatives would be and what
23 the options are.

24 MR. SMITH: Howard, would you like
25 to add to that?

1 MR. BLOOD: Would you repeat the
2 initial question? I heard just a bit. I heard
3 some of the response to it.

4 MR. SMITH: The original question
5 was: Are the three agencies in agreement on the
6 plan? Is that essentially it?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Right.

8 MR. BLOOD: I would say that you
9 probably answered that about as well as you
10 could. We went through a fairly extensive
11 process to get to the point where it is now.
12 There were a number of other alternatives, I
13 would say our basic criteria was of being
14 implementable for the type of action that we're
15 doing here, but we're also trying to get some
16 decision structure to the treatment and disposal
17 alternative in the hopes of generating some
18 public comment on the disposal process
19 specifically for these contaminants.

20 MS. NICKLAUS: If I might add just a
21 little bit to that. I think Tom pointed out
22 that the three agencies were in concurrence
23 about presenting the two alternatives and two
24 options to you. The three agencies are also in
25 concurrence on the preferred alternative, that

1 being the Hot Spot Removal.

2 MR. SMITH: I believe I saw another
3 hand over here.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could someone
5 elaborate on exactly what these chemicals are
6 and how dangerous they are? What is chromium?

7 MR. SMITH: Good question.

8 MR. BARGELT: Both cesium and
9 chromium are metals. Cesium is a radioactive
10 metal and it creates ionizing radiation. And
11 cesium and the metal -- chromium itself -- I'm
12 not quite sure, Nick might help me out on this
13 as far as -- is it a carcinogen?

14 Nick Stanisich is a subcontractor
15 that works for us on this project, and he works
16 for Mountain States Engineers out of the Idaho
17 Falls office. He is our risk assessment expert.

18 MR. STANISICH: I think I can answer
19 both questions. Chromium-3, trivalent, it is
20 not a carcinogen, but it does have health
21 effects, noncarcinogenic health effects and
22 those consist mostly of nasal mucosa, atrophy
23 and edema caused to the upper respiratory tract,
24 and also causes problems with kidney
25 dysfunction. The effects on the kidney are

1 basically due to ingestion of the chromium and
2 not to inhalation of the chromium. But any time
3 you have inhalation of chromium, you're going to
4 get a little bit caught up in the upper
5 respiratory pathways.

6 The hazard from cesium-137 is that
7 it's ionizing; it produces ionizing radiation.
8 And not directly, its daughter product,
9 barium-137, produces gamma-emitting protons
10 which causes the ionizing radiation, which
11 causes most of the exposure, direct exposure.

12 Does that answer your question?
13 That was pretty highly technical.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The first one I
15 got, the second one --

16 MR. STANISICH: The second one is
17 cesium is a radionuclide which emits ionized
18 radiation.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What is that?

20 MR. STANISICH: The gamma, beta,
21 alpha neutrons those are all forms of ionizing
22 radiation. What we mean by ionizing radiation
23 is the radiation has enough energy in it to
24 ionize molecules. That's opposed to, for
25 instance, nonionizing radiation, microwaves or

1 radio waves. Each one of those protons of
2 energy did not have enough energy to cause
3 ionization. So what we're talking about here is
4 protons of energy with greater amounts of energy
5 than those things that we commonly referred to
6 as nonionizing radiation.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What is the half
8 life on this?

9 MR. STANISICH: It's about 30 years
10 for cesium-137.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thirty years?

12 MR. STANISICH: Yes.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: How about the
14 barium, are they connected?

15 MR. STANISICH: They are connected.
16 It's starter product. Cesium decays and the
17 barium actually produces the gamma rays. And
18 they are basically in equilibrium. Any time you
19 have a parent radionuclide and a daughter
20 product, in a short period of time they become
21 in equilibrium. In other words, they are about
22 the same concentration. So they will decay at
23 the same rate too.

24 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Nick.

25 Okay. Howard, did you have any

1 comment on the contaminants?

2 MR. BLOOD: I appreciate the
3 interest on this.

4 MR. SMITH: Carol.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you know if --
6 I have to look at my acronyms -- Radioactive
7 Waste Management Complex -- now I can't
8 remember -- the RCRA, what is it, Resource
9 Conservation Recovery Act, does it meet RCRA
10 standards, the RWMC where you plan to take this
11 waste?

12 MR. SMITH: Tom, would you like to
13 answer that?

14 MR. STOOPS: I understand what
15 you're asking. You're asking about will the
16 grout meet RCRA requirements?

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Right.

18 MR. STOOPS: One of the items that
19 would be performed in a design study, if this
20 was a selected alternative, would be to subject
21 both the solids and the resulting grout to what
22 they call the toxic leaching procedure, which is
23 where we literally leach material out of some
24 product, whether that be the sediments or the
25 resulting grout. Then the results of that would

1 be compared to what is published within RCRA
2 guidelines or if it would fall under the
3 guidance of RCRA. Our belief at the moment is
4 that it won't.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I guess what my
6 question is, does that site meet those standards
7 for storing RCRA materials?

8 MR. STOOPS: The RWMC?

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

10 MR. STOOPS: We wouldn't be storing
11 RCRA material. If during the designing phase it
12 was determined what leached from either the
13 grout or the sediments wouldn't meet the RCRA
14 requirements, then we would have to go to a new
15 type of solution.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could you put it
17 in RCRA site?

18 MS. NICKLAUS: Essentially if we
19 grout this, the thing that would be evaluated if
20 grouting was selected, would be by grouting it
21 can we make it so it passes the leaching
22 procedure that Tom was talking about and the
23 leaching procedure would be geared towards does
24 the chromium leach out of the grout mix. That
25 would be the goal behind putting behind this

1 grout mix is that the chromium would leach out;
2 therefore, the remaining waste would then be
3 characterized because of the presence of the
4 cesium in there, which is a radionuclide, so it
5 would be low level waste, and then that would be
6 disposed of at the RWMC, which is low level
7 waste facility, it's not a RCRA facility.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But if it does
9 leach out, if you get it in the grout or if it
10 happens, then you won't use that alternative; is
11 that what I'm hearing?

12 MS. NICKLAUS: That would be
13 something that we would evaluate. If this was a
14 selected alternative and we selected grouting,
15 that would be something that we would be
16 evaluating. That would certainly be our goal,
17 would be that the grout mix would stabilize that
18 in concrete form and it would not leach.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But if it did. I
20 still want to know if it does meet RCRA
21 requirements, where will you take it?

22 MR. STOOPS: If the chromium leached
23 such that it would be a RCRA characteristic, we
24 need to go back and reevaluate and come up with
25 an alternative, what is appropriate to that

1 situation. Like I said, due to some previous
2 testing, we don't believe that the material, the
3 chromium, will leach to the point that it become
4 a RCRA characteristic waste.

5 You have to be able to leach so much
6 chromium from it for it to be governed under
7 RCRA.

8 MR. BLOOD: To expand on that.
9 Before we dispose of all the waste, we wouldn't
10 proceed if it was determined that this was not a
11 correct remedy during the remedial design phase
12 where we actually do the treatability study.

13 MR. SMITH: Did you understand what
14 Howard just said?

15 MS. NICKLAUS: I think what we're
16 all trying to say is that we realize that would
17 be a concern if that option is selected. And
18 that would be evaluated, and if we came up
19 during a treatability study with an answer that
20 is not appropriate, we can't dispose of that
21 under the proper means that we're proposing
22 under that alternative, we would have to step
23 back and reevaluate where we'll go. So it is a
24 valid concern that you're raising.

25 MR. STANISICH: The waste as it sits

1 now is not a hazardous waste.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The chromium is
3 not a hazardous waste?

4 MR. STANISICH: The chromium as it
5 sits is not a hazardous waste.

6 MR. SMITH: We have to use the
7 microphone just to make sure everyone can hear,
8 and maybe explain that.

9 MR. STANISICH: When the samples
10 were collected to determine what the
11 concentrations of the contaminants in the pond
12 were, a number of samples including those with
13 the highest concentrations of chromium were
14 subjected to the leaching procedure test. And
15 the criteria for the leaching procedure is if 5
16 parts per million or 5 milligrams per liter of
17 the chromium can leach out after the test.

18 Well, less than to my recollection,
19 I might be a little bit off, but less than one
20 part per million was leached from the chromium
21 at the highest concentrations. As the waste
22 sits in the pond right now, it is not a
23 hazardous waste, and that's why we're able to
24 pursue along the lines that it's the assumption
25 -- it's more than an assumption actually, we

1 have a process knowledge and analytical data
2 that tell us if it's radioactive waste.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So it's
4 radioactive waste and not hazardous waste?

5 MR. STANISICH: Right. That's
6 correct, it's low level waste and not hazardous.
7 That's why we feel comfortable with the
8 solution.

9 In regards to your question, and
10 yours too about the groundwater -- or the
11 migration of the contaminants through the ground
12 and into the groundwater, this leaching
13 procedure also tells us that even if water did
14 leach through this and there was a leak in the
15 bottom, the contaminants don't leach out, in
16 other words they stay fixed to the soils. .
17 That's another reason why I feel comfortable
18 with this option.

19 Another reason is we performed a
20 mass balance. In other words, we know how much
21 chromium was used during the active operations,
22 and during our sampling we then took a value of
23 how much chromium was found in the pond. So I
24 feel pretty comfortable that all the chromium
25 was in the sediments in the pond.

1 MR. SMITH: Thank you. Any note
2 cards that have been generated in the interim?
3 Feel free to hand those in. Any other questions
4 about this project? Okay.

5 Let me ask: In preparation to
6 tonight's meeting with the information that some
7 of you may have received earlier, is there
8 anyone that has prepared comments or impromptu
9 comments or things that you thought of that you
10 would like to make for the record?

11 I propose, then, at this time that
12 we take those comments, and if other questions
13 come up after we end this comment session, I
14 think we'll be here, and feel free to come up to
15 talk to anyone from the agencies, individuals or
16 project managers. So with that, Carol, would
17 you like to? Do you need another minute or two?

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No. Can I just
19 remind, if you made a comment, you need to make
20 it again or it won't be on the record, the
21 official record.

22 MR. SMITH: Thank you for stating
23 that. During this portion of the meeting,
24 then, the agencies will take these comments and
25 put them in the Responsiveness Summary, so

1 that's one of the important parts of this
2 meeting.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Carol
4 Hondo and I'm from Burley. On behalf of Focus,
5 a Mini-Cassia citizens' organization, I would
6 like to make the following comments.

7 As citizens of the State of Idaho we
8 have studied groundwater principles and how our
9 aquifer works. We are well aware that this
10 aquifer, one of worlds largest and sole source
11 for 200,000 Idahoans, is extremely important and
12 needs to be protected at all costs. We call
13 upon the Department of Energy, INEL, EPA and the
14 State of Idaho to protect the Snake River
15 Aquifer from further contamination by not
16 storing radioactive and/or hazardous wastes
17 above it.

18 We find the proposed Power Burst
19 Facility project to be inadequate. We have a
20 third alternative. We feel that in order to
21 protect the Snake River Aquifer, all the
22 sediments in the Evaporation Pond must be
23 removed. Hot Spot Removal is not enough. All
24 the sediments are probably dangerous and need to
25 be removed so they are not above our aquifer.

1 We are concerned that the process of
2 removing the Hot Spot is in violation of the
3 integrity of the water liner in the Evaporation
4 Pond, which has been there since 1977 or '78.
5 We believe it will be cheaper in the long run to
6 do it right the first time.

7 We are also concerned that you will
8 only do the Hot Spots and walk away from the
9 rest of it. We see neither proposed actions
10 being a permanent solution as stated on page 7
11 of the action booklet.

12 Cesium in the sediment is of a
13 particular concern. Cesium -- now I guess I got
14 this mixed up, but I thought it was a RCRA
15 hazardous waste, maybe that's my problem. But
16 cesium has to be listed as RCRA hazardous waste
17 and must be dealt with in full compliance with
18 RCRA law. There should be a revision in the
19 plan.

20 Sediments should go a to a RCRA
21 permitted hazardous waste site so to be not on
22 the aquifer. We find the grouting option to be
23 unacceptable. Grouting is weak and subject to
24 water damage and will degrade over time and
25 become another problem. It is really not a

1 long-term solution for this waste. How about
2 using a grout form and putting it in a concrete
3 bunker where you can get to it later, a modern,
4 treatable, storage facility.

5 Focus would like to go on record as
6 protecting the State of Idaho from EPA's
7 oversight. We see a lack of concern for the
8 aquifer. We have seen through split sample
9 data, no quality control. All the public is
10 getting is the Department of Energy information
11 and data.

12 There is no indication as to whether
13 RCRA standards are being met. According to our
14 understanding of the Federal Facility Agreement
15 and Consent Order to the Department of Energy
16 and INEL you are obligated to fulfill all ,
17 requirements whether the site is permitted or
18 not. In other words, you are not exempted from
19 these standards.

20 Two last things. We have discovered
21 that while there has been an increase in the
22 Department of Energy and the Department of
23 Defense Waste Management budget, yet there
24 hasn't been. Yet EPA's Oversight budget has
25 declined. This means that we have to reach the

1 enforcement agencies for the public with resource
2 cuts so they can't be a credible enforcement
3 authority.

4 We are concerned that lack of
5 oversight funding will force EPA to rubber stamp
6 projects that may need closer investigation. A
7 few months ago President Bush directed federal
8 employment authorities not to initiate any
9 further enforcement activities in order to
10 stimulate the industry. With 4,000-plus
11 radioactive and hazardous waste sites in this
12 country, we find this attitude reckless and
13 foolish. We encourage our government, EPA, INEL
14 and the Department of Energy and the State of
15 Idaho to do what it should have done all along,
16 is put the health of the Snake River Aquifer and
17 put the people of the state first.

18 MR. SMITH: Thank you. Any other
19 comments that someone would like to make for the
20 record this evening? I would just like to
21 remind you, then, as you refer to the proposed
22 plan and reflect on what has been said here
23 tonight by the agencies, feel free to take a
24 page or several of these sheets with you. If
25 you're so inclined to mail those in to us, they

1 will be made into the official comment record
2 for this project and we'll review them.

3 That concludes the meeting this
4 evening. Prior to adjourning, I would like to
5 ask the agencies if they have any closing
6 remarks they would like to make?

7 MS. NICKLAUS: I would just like to
8 thank everyone for coming.

9 MR. SMITH: Howard?

10 MR. BLOOD: I thank you for all
11 coming. I hope I responded and contributed to
12 the conversation.

13 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Howard. And
14 so we'll sign off now, and thanks for being here
15 with us.

16 We will remain afterwards to discuss
17 elements of this project. So with that, thanks
18 very much for being here.

19

20 (The hearing concluded at 8:40 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

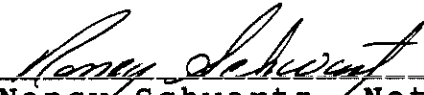
STATE OF IDAHO)
) ss.
County of Ada)

I, NANCY SCHWARTZ, a Notary Public
in and for the State of Idaho, do hereby certify:

That said hearing was taken down by
me in shorthand at the time and place therein
named and thereafter reduced to computer type,
and that the foregoing transcript contains a
true and correct record of the said hearing, all
done to the best of my skill and ability.

I further certify that I have no
interest in the event of the action.

WITNESS my hand and seal this 16th
day of May, 1992.



Nancy Schwartz, Notary
Public in and for the
State of Idaho

My commission expires:
August 23, 1992